

# RESILIENT



## ULTIMATE CONTENTMENT

September 19/20, 2020

Philippians 4:10 – 23

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### MESSAGE NOTES

*I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. — Philippians 4:10*

*I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. — Philippians 4:11 – 12*

*I can do all this through Him who gives me strength. — Philippians 4:13*

*Paul isn't telling Christians that they should dream bigger dreams; he is reminding them that they can endure the crushing feeling of defeat if those dreams aren't realized. He's not encouraging Christians to go out and conquer the world; he's reminding them that they can press on when the world conquers them. — Jonathan Merritt*

*Bless God for what you have, and trust God for what you want. If we cannot bring our condition to our mind, then we must bring our mind to our condition. If a man is not content in the state he is in, then he will not be content in the state he would be in. — Erskine Mason*

### **How can we have ultimate contentment?**

**By utilizing God's strength in our lives.**

*But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. — 2 Corinthians 12:9 – 10*

**By surrendering to God's provision.**

*So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. — Matthew 6:31 – 34*

**By believing in God's goodness.**

- *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. — Psalm 23:6 (NKJV)*
- *The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. — Psalm 145:9 (NKJV)*
- *I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. — Psalm 27:13 (NKJV)*



- *I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness. — Psalm 145:5 – 7 (NKJV)*
- *He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. — Psalm 33:5 (NKJV)*
- *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! — Psalm 34:8 (NKJV)*
- *Be thankful to Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting. — Psalm 100:4 – 5 (NKJV)*
- *Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry soul with goodness. — Psalm 107:8 – 9 (NKJV)*
- *Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. — Psalm 143:10 (NKJV)*
- *Hear me, O Lord, for Your lovingkindness is good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies. — Psalm 69:16 (NKJV)*
- *Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. — Psalm 31:19 – 20 (NKJV)*

**Ultimate contentment is found by trusting the Lord in seemingly unbearable situations.**



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What is one thing that stuck out to you from the message?
- What does it mean to be content?
- Explain how you have and have not experienced contentment in your life?
- What caused true contentment for you?
- How has Paul learned to be content? Read 2 Corinthians 1:8 – 10; 11:23 – 28; 12:8 – 10; 1 Timothy 6:6 – 8.
- How does Paul's view of contentment compare to the modern world's view of contentment? What part of Paul's view of contentment do you need to adopt in your life?
- Paul mentions that he knows what it is like to be in need. What true needs have you experienced?
- Why does it seem hard to experience contentment when you have needs? What can we do in order to experience contentment in the midst of need?
- In verse 13, Paul says that he can "do all things through Him who gives me strength." What is the context of this verse? What does "all things" refer to in context?
- In your times of need and plenty, how have you been able to experience God's strength in your life?
- What is one need you are aware of that you can be used to meet this week? How can you be a blessing to others as you sacrifice for God's Kingdom?
- What commitment to be faithful in giving can you make this week? If you are not already doing so, what steps can I take to begin and make giving a regular part of my act of worship? What steps do you need to take to trust God to meet your needs as you give to His Kingdom?