

The Secret of Paul's Contentment

TEXT: Phil. 4:10-23

INTRODUCTION:

- Paul's letter to the Philippians is basically a thank-you letter, written from prison in Rome.
- Today we will look at the subject of contentment, particularly as it relates to our financial situation.
- What is contentment?
- What was the secret of Paul's contentment? There are three given here.

BODY OF THE LESSON:

1. **The Sovereignty of God (4:10)**
 - We see God's sovereign hand at work with the supernatural timing of the Philippians' gift.
 - Some OT examples of the sovereignty of God:
 - Abraham
 - Joseph
 - Timing of the last DRC trip.
2. **The Strengthening of God (4:11-13)**
 - Paul is not complaining. His happiness does not depend on circumstances or things.
 - Paul knew what it meant to be brought low, to be humbled, to be hungry and to suffer need.
 - Paul was able to adjust to all the situations because of the strengthening of Christ within him.
 - He trusted the deep power of God, not the deep pockets of men!
 - Who or what are we trusting in?
3. **The Supply of God (4:14-20)**
 - Paul appreciated the gift sent by the Philippians.
 - He compares their giving to three things:
 - a. **A flourishing plant (4:10).**
 - b. **An investment (4:14-17).**
 - c. **A sacrifice (4:18-20).**

APPLICATION AND CONCLUSION:

1. Look up—see God sovereignly in control of all our circumstances.
2. Look in—see God strengthening me in all my situations.
3. Look out—see God supplying others in all their needs.