

Philippians 4.10-23

As a Follower of Jesus R U Thermometer or Thermostat?

Thermometer REGISTERS Temperature > Does Not Change It

Thermostat Controls Surroundings > Makes Changes when Needed

Jesus appointed Paul/Saul – Apostle to Gentiles – Thermostat WORLD!

Entered City of Philippi – Meeting of Jewish Women praying @ River

Change Scary! *“Don’t Change Philippi, Let Philippi Change U”* Thailand?

Lydia Wealthy Woman @ River: God opened her heart, she opened Home

Slave Girl spirit possessed > Shouting “God sent these men!” SET FREE

Paul/Silas Imprisoned: Earthquake > Jailer SAVED > BAPTIZED House!

Change from GOD > ONLY God can Change Hearts -Thermostats!

Hearts ALIVE Living God/ Risen Son/ Holy Spirit: New Heart, Kingdom

PAUL was Not victim of Circumstances > Victor over Circumstances:

v. 11 “I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content”

v. 13 “I can do all things” v.18 “I have received full payment, and more”

11 I can accept all things, 13 I can do all things 18 I have all things

Contentment Not Complacency, nor False Peace based on Ignorance

Found Contentment w/out Pampering > Contentment in Resources of X

v. 19 “according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus”

IF Complacent unconcerned 4 others, Contented Xtian shares Blessings Contentment Not Escape from Battle, Abiding Peace in midst of Battle

v. 11 “I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content”

2 words in vs 11 Very Important: **“learned”** and **“content”**

Learned? Thru Difficult Experiences of Life: God’s Resources w/in him

3 Resources > Give us Contentment allow us to GROW & Rejoice in X

1. Overruling Providence of God

Many assign Highest Place to Scientific Achievement > New Future A.I.

Many Think God Himself cannot Interrupt Wheels of Man as they Turn

Word of God teaches Providential Workings of God in Nature all of Life

Proverbs 19.21 - "Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

Psalms 115.3 "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases."

Sovereign God arranges All Circumstances to Fulfill His Purposes

Providence of God: His hand ruling and overruling in the affairs of life

Genesis: Joseph > Brothers Envied him, Sold him, Enslaved Egypt @ 17

Years of Suffering > Waiting > Wondering >> Saves Family & WORLD

Joseph Reigns From Right Hand of Highest Throne on Earth

Joseph to Brothers (Gen. 45:5) "God sent me before you to preserve life" "you thought evil
against me; but God meant it unto good" (Gen. 50:20).

Paul "we know that God works all things together for good to them that love Him and are called
according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

Heidelberg Catechism – 1563 –

Question 27: What do you understand by the providence of God?

Answer: God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand,
He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain
and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty,
indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand.

Heidelberg Catechism 1563 Question 28: What does it benefit us to know that God has created
all things and still upholds them by His providence?

A: We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity & with a view to the future we can have
a firm confidence in our faithful God & Father that no creature shall separate us from His love;
for all creatures are so completely in His hand that w/out His will they cannot so much as move.

2. The Unfailing Power of God

All Nature depends on GOD'S Resources Hidden to OUR EYES

Great Trees send Roots Down into Earth to draw up Water & Minerals.

Rivers have their sources in the snow-capped mountains.

Most important part of Tree is part cannot see, Root System

Most important part Christian's life is what Only God Sees

We must Draw on Deep Resources of God by FAITH IN CHRIST

1.6 He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. //

1.21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

3.10 'that I may know him and the power of his resurrection'

v. 11 "for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content"

Word LEARNED used by Pagan Religions = "inner secrets"

Paul "initiated" thru Trial & Testing into Secret of Contentment

Both Poverty & Plenty been Paul's Companion > Needs Supplied by God

Greek word "Self-Sufficient" favorite word of Stoic Philosophers

Christian Not SELF-Sufficient in himself; We are Sufficient in Christ

If Christ lives within You, You can Grow & Rejoice thru Demands of Life

Secret of Contentment > Christ's Strength in Me > Not ISOLATE vs 13

v. 13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me"

Basketball Players Phil 4.13 on Shoes > X help Jump Higher, Make Shots

TRUE Meaning by the Power of Jesus I can live thru Poverty and Plenty

Spiritual Contentment needs to be LEARNED thru Hardship & Testing

Contentment IN Christ: He perfectly Contented Man, Obey Father's Will

Contentment FOR X: "for X's sake prepared lose all things, found in Him

Paul content to HAVE X "surpassing worth knowing X Jesus as Lord"

"When he was weak, Christ made Paul strong; when he was empty, Christ filled him with his power; when he was poor, Christ made him rich. In whatever situation, in Christ he had learned to be content. Since Christ meant more to him than life itself, how could it be otherwise?"

Sinclair Ferguson

Fog had moved into O'Hare Field, the airport that serves Chicago, and my departure had been delayed. I was sitting in the terminal reading a book and quietly asking God to work out His plans for the trip. Near me was a gentleman waiting for the same plane, but he was pacing up and down like a caged lion, and the language he was using to describe the fog was making the atmosphere more dense! I thought, "Here is a man without any inner resources." Later, he asked me how I could be so calm when the planes were all late, & I had the opportunity to share the gospel with him.

W. Wiersbe

Hudson Taylor worked hard & felt he was trusting X to meet his needs

Letter from Friend: "It is not by trusting my own faithfulness, but by looking away to the Faithful One!" > Christ's power carried him thru

John 15: He is the Vine; we are the branches > Bearing Fruit

Branch Not bear fruit thru Self-Effort, but by drawing on life of the Vine

"Without me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5)

1) Overruling providence of God & 2) Unfailing power of God

3. The Unchanging Promise of God (4:14–20)

Paul thanked the church at Philippi for their generous gift.

Strange Mix of Words > True Gratitude, Warning agnst GRIFTERS

"Charlatan philosophers were a frequent sight on the street corners of cities like Philippi in ancient times. They dressed like philosophers, and many were able to gather a following that was willing not only to hear and submit to them but give them financial support...Paul preached in the open too...Paul was aware that misunderstanding could arise if he depended on the churches for financial support"

Frank Thielman

Paul was quick to let his friends know that he was not complaining!

Paul wants Philippians to know he Deeply Grateful for their Gifts

v. 10 "I rejoiced greatly...you have revived your concern for me"

v. 14 "it was kind of you to share in my trouble"

v. 18 "I have received full payment...I am well supplied"

vs. 11-13 Not NEED your Gift / v. 17 Did Not SEEK your Gift

He lacks Nothing > He is CONTENT in X > Blessings from God

His happiness NOT Depend on Circumstances or Things his Joy came from something Deeper than either Poverty or Prosperity

From their Founding > Philippians supported Paul's Apostolic Mission

v. 18 I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

Only church that Supported him, Even when in Other Cities

v. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

There is no such thing as One Man Mission or Ministry

v. 17 The Fruit increases to your Credit -- v. 18 Received Full Payment

Gift getter is thankful for what Gifts tell him about the Gift-givers

"Paul is more concerned with the spiritual commitment it expresses, the spiritual bond it creates, and the spiritual blessing to which it will lead" Sinclair Ferguson

v. 11,12 "I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need"

BROUGHT LOW > 2 Corinth 11 > Many Troubles come at Us

"to abound" Prosperity does More Damage to believers than Adversity

KZ in 1990's – One Greatest Movements of Muslims to Jesus > POOR!

Even TODAY where Granddaughter grads from Uni in Almaty tomorrow

Highly Educated – Wealthy – Successful Elite > Not coming to JESUS

Laodicea "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing" Revel 3.17

He compared their giving to 2 very familiar things....

a. Budding Tree v. 17 but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit

Word flourished = flower / tree – budding / blossoming

We go thru Seasons Spiritually > Spring arrives > New life & Blessing

b. Investment - their M gift = Investment w Rich Spiritual Dividends

v. 15 partnership with me in giving and receiving

v. 17 I seek the fruit that increases to your credit

Contrast btwn vs 18 & 19 > a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus >> You met my need, God going meet your need

Paul saw Philippians Priests, giving their Offering as Sacrifice to the Lord

OPPOSITE of what we'll see Next Week in chapter Malachi 1

Gift NOT simply coming from Philippi > saw it coming from Heaven

vs. 19,20 according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

You gave out UR Poverty, God supply UR needs out His riches in Glory

God not promised supply all our "Greeds" > Serving for the glory of God

Hudson Taylor "God's work for God's glory will not lack God's supply"

Partnership = "fellowship" Church arrangement of "giving & receiving"

Church GAVE materially to Missions & RECEIVED spiritually from Lord

30 yrs ago Pastor ICF Almaty: Decree Out-going Pastor, took Credit Card

Started Monthly Finance Report – In & Out > Soon 70% income M work

Orphanages – Drug/Alcohol Treatments Cntrs – Seminaries – KZ Bible

Sacrificial Investment to Global M's: changes Church, Mission, Heaven!

v. 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus.

Greetings FROM Paul to EVERY SAINT – Fight Against Division

Apostle served Whole Church – Scripture is for Every Saint

Sit Together and LISTEN – GROW – FELLOWSHIP – REJOICE

v. 21 The brothers who are with me greet you.

Greetings THRU Paul from "the brothers who are with me greet you"

ONE Family of Faith even with those will Only Meet in HEAVEN

Encouraged by their Witness – Paul's 'joy and crown' – Special Church

BICF students from Africa – 'greetings from my parents, pastor, church'

Small Family of Faith– Mighty Army of God – Meeting Now round World

v. 22 “All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household”

Uganda Years of Civil War, Killings, Disorder: National Resistance Army

Leader Yoweri Museveni > Wife Born Again Xtian, his Dad was Pastor

Xi Jing Ping 1st VP Li Kachung – Student of American lady in BICF

She shared Gospel w him Many Times > Not Sure Response > DEAD!

JD Vance NYTimes # 1 Best Seller > Communion, book on his FAITH

Sports Heroes – Political Leaders – Business Heads > Professing JESUS

v. 23 Grace TO All from Lord Jesus Christ – Stand in ONE Spirit

Paul PRAYS for Unity – thru Lord Jesus Christ – from 1st to Final Century

Olympic Games > Chariots of Fire > Eric Liddell > Scot in China

1000’s came to Edinburgh Trains Station for his Farewell

Wanted him to Give Speech > Crowd too Big for All to Hear

Led them in Singing “Jesus shall reign where ere’ the Sun!”

Psalm 84 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! // **My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord;** // my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. // **Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,** // where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. // **Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!** // Blessed are those whose strength is in you, // **in whose heart are the highways to Zion.** // As they go through the Valley of Baca // **they make it a place of springs;** // the early rain also covers it with pools. // **They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.** // O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! // **Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!** // For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. // **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.** // For the Lord God is a sun and shield; // **the Lord bestows favor and honor.** // No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. // **O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you! Amen and Amen.**