

Philippians 4:10-23

Phil 4:10-23 *But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. 14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household. 23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. NKJV*

Three Points to Consider from the Text

1. The Philippians' care for Paul
2. Paul's Contentment
3. Paul's Confidence

The Philippians' care for Paul

Paul rejoiced _____ that the Philippians were willing to help him financially.

This is something they had done early on in their relationship but had _____ until recently.

The word "flourished" comes from a word that is used to describe a _____ that comes to life again in the spring.

Paul says that the reason for the gap in their support of him was that they _____ opportunity.

Acts 17:1-9 *Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." 4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. 5 But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. 7 Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king — Jesus." 8 And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. 9 So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. NKJV*

Paul's short trip to Thessalonica was filled with success as well as _____.

It was during difficult times as this that the church in Philippi met Paul's _____ needs.

We also learn from our text that the monetary gift they gave to Paul made a deposit into their **heavenly** account.

He refers to their gift as "fruit that abounds to your account."

Their gift was a sweet-smelling aroma and an _____ sacrifice that pleased God.

Eph 5:1-2 *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. NKJV*

Christ's sacrifice was a _____ - _____ aroma to God.

2 Cor 2:14-17 *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ. NKJV*

God diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge through _____.

To those living according to God's plan, we are a good fragrance.

To those rebelling against God, we are the smell of _____.

Heb 13:14-16 *For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. 15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

God is _____ when we share what we have.

1 Tim 6:17-19 *Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. NKJV*

When we help others, we are storing up _____ in heaven.

Paul assures them that his God would supply all their _____ according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Matt 10:40-42 *"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." NKJV*

God looks out for those who look out for others.

Paul's Contentment

Phil 4:11-13 *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 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. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. NIV*

Paul was _____ in all _____.

1 Tim 6:6-16 *Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from*

the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, 15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. NKJV

- Contentment is only possible if we have the proper _____ about earthly things. Paul knew that all earthly possessions are temporary.
- Contentment is only possible when we know who we are and who Christ is. Paul refers to us as people of God and Christ as the _____ of kings.
- Contentment is only possible when we _____ what God wants us to become by pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and gentleness.
- Contentment is only possible when we _____ what God wants us to do by engaging in the good fight of faith.

Heb 13:5-6 *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"* NKJV

We can be content because the King of kings has promised to _____ leave us.
We need to learn to _____ while living!

Paul's Confidence

Phil 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Paul knew that He could accomplish _____ within God's will because of the strength he found through Christ.

This included changing the way he _____.

Practical Application

- Keep changing the way you think about God's grace and mercy.
- Continue taking your anxieties to the Lord and leaving them there.
- Remember that when you do, the peace of God will guard your heart and the God of peace will be with you.
- Make sure what you are meditating on is praiseworthy.