

LEARNING to be CONTENT ~ Philippians 4:10-13

→ Scripture Reading Phil. 4:10-13

INTRODUCTION

→ Fence and Grass

Quiz

Life is going to be really good when...

Life would be great if only...

I know I'd be happier if I had...

Life was really good back when...

Philippians 4:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹...I have **LEARNED to be CONTENT** whatever the circumstances.

¹²...I have **LEARNED the secret of being CONTENT** in any and every situation...

Philippians 1:7 (NIV) ...for whether I am IN CHAINS or defending and confirming the gospel...

Philippians 1:13-14 (NIV) ...what has happened to me has really served to **ADVANCE** the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am IN CHAINS for Christ. ¹⁴

Because of my CHAINS, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

Philippians 1:15-17 (NIV) It is true that some preach Christ out of **ENVY** and **RIVALRY**...

¹⁷...out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am IN CHAINS.

I can DO ALL things THROUGH Christ ~ Philippians 4:10-13

¹⁰ I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ 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.

IMPLICATIONS

→ True Contentment is NOT based on our CIRCUMSTANCES

¹¹ ...for I have learned in **WHATEVER** situation I am to be content. (ESV)

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) ...we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes NOT on what is seen, but ON what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

→ Contentment is NOT Learned Quickly or Easily

¹¹ ...I have **LEARNED** how to be content with whatever I have. (NLT)

Contentment is **LEARNED** through exposure to times of **NEED** and times of **PLENTY**. It involves a regular struggle to **BELIEVE** that Christ **IS ENOUGH**. CCE

→Contentment is based on total **DEPENDENCE** on Christ

¹³ I can do ALL THINGS through HIM who strengthens me. (ESV)

Christian contentment is rooted in our relationship with Christ. It flows from our UNION and COMMUNION with our Savior. CCE

Paul is not preoccupied with his situation; he is preoccupied with Jesus. This is the secret. When you focus on Jesus, you can be **CONTENT**. CCE

Lamentations 3:25-26 (NLT) The LORD is good to those who **DEPEND** on Him, to those who search for Him. ²⁶ So it is **GOOD** to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD.

TAKE AWAY ??

¹² I know how to live when I am poor and when I have plenty. I have learned **the SECRET of how to live** through any kind of situation - when I have enough to eat or when I am hungry, when I have everything I need or when I have nothing. (ETR)

Discontent holds today's **joy hostage** with a list of demands of how things **should be**. RPresson

Discontent may lead to not only despair, but also anger, blame, resentment, rebellion, and addictive behaviors. RPresson

Psalms 73:25 (NIV) Whom have I in heaven but You? **And earth has nothing I desire besides YOU.**

CONTENTMENT...

- is not based on our CIRCUMSTANCES
- is not COMPLACENCY
- refuses to COMPARE
- allows for DISAPPOINTMENT
- is based on ACCEPTANCE
- means being THANKFUL

2 Corinthians 4:7-9 (NIV) ...we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.