

Text Outline Philippians 4:10-23

- I. ¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord**
- A. that**
1. **at last you renewed your concern for me.**
 2. **Indeed, you were concerned,**
 3. **but you had no opportunity to show it.**
- B. ¹¹ I am not saying this**
1. **because I am in need,**
 2. **for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.**
 - a) ² *I know what it is to be in need,*
 - b) *and I know what it is to have plenty.*
 - c) *I have learned the secret of being content*
 - (1) in any
 - (2) and every situation,
 - (3) whether well fed or hungry,
 - (4) whether living in plenty or in want.
 3. ¹³ **I can do all this through him who gives me strength.**
- II. ¹⁴ Yet it was good of you**
- A. to share in my troubles.**
- B. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know,**
1. **in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel,**
 2. **when I set out from Macedonia,**
 3. **not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;**
 4. ¹⁶ **for even when I was in Thessalonica,**
 - a) *you sent me aid*
 - b) *more than once when I was in need.*
- C. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts;**
1. **what I desire is that more be credited to your account.**
 2. ¹⁸ **I have received**
 - a) *full payment*
 - b) *and have more than enough.*
 - c) *I am amply supplied,*
 3. **now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent.**
 - a) *They are a fragrant offering,*
 - b) *an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.*
 - c) ¹⁹ *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*
 4. ²⁰ **To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

III. ²¹ Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus.

- A. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings.**
- B. ²² All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.**
- C. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.**

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Conceptual Outline Philippians 4:10-23

Theme: Paul's secret of contentment is the confidence of doing all through Christ who gives strength.

I. Paul's Secret of Contentment

- A. Love & support from the Philippians**
- B. The secret was learned by personal experience**
- C. Christ is His source of strength**

II. Giving is good for the Philippians

- A. Philippians share in his troubles**
- B. They were the only ones who share in giving & receiving from the beginning**
- C. They sent aid again and again**
- D. Paul's desire is for credit to their account**
- E. Paul has received full payment & was amply supplied**
- F. Gifts to Paul became a fragrant offering, acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God**
- G. God will in turn meet their needs**
- H. God is glorified**

III. Final greeting

- A. All God's people send greetings**
- B. Those in Caesar's household esp sent greetings**
- C. Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit**

Questions:

1) Focus

Have you ever received much needed help from someone? Have you ever been in need but did not receive any help at all? Have you ever helped someone in need? How did each of these experiences affect you and your view about making contributions?

2) Read vs. 10-13. Giving as an opportunity

- What are Paul's reasons for joy?
- How do the Philippians show their concern?
- Why does Paul call giving "opportunity"?
- What might have caused the lack of opportunity for giving?

3) Contentment in all circumstances

- In your opinion is Paul a grateful recipient. Support your view with the verses.
- What are some of the contrasting circumstances Paul mentions that he's learned to be content? How did he learn them?
- In your opinion, what is harder to learn contentment, plenty or in need, hungry or well fed?

4) Secret of contentment

- What is Paul's secret of contentment?
- How does Paul's contentment affect his confidence?
- Let's read a few verses from previous chapter to identify other factors which contribute to Paul's contentment.

i) 1:19-21

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.^[a]²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

ii) 3:7-8

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

iii) 3:10

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

iv) 3:13

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead

v) 4:5-6

⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

5) Response

- Was there a time in your life when you felt discontent?
- What can you learn from Paul's experience to help you in your situation?

6) Read vs. 14-20 Philippians' Outstanding Sacrifice

- a) In v.11 Paul says he's rejoicing not because he's in need, then what is so good about their giving?
- b) What is outstanding about the Philippians' giving?

7) Humbly in receiving aids

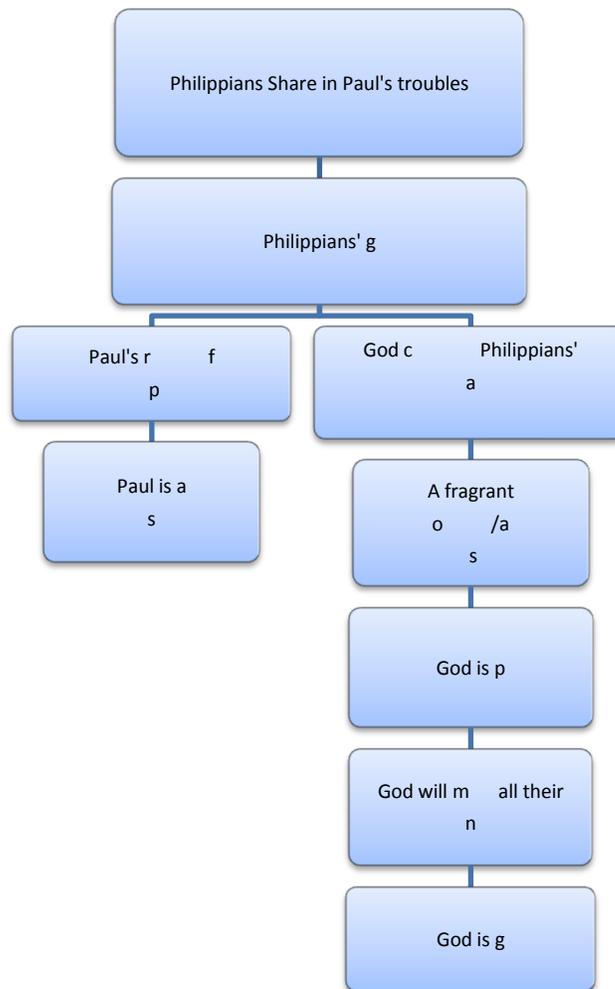
In v. 20, Paul humbly admits to be in need. What might have been some of Paul's need that were met by the Philippians?

8) Blessings of giving & receiving

The following verse speak about Paul's attitudes regarding receiving in general.

1 Thess 2:9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

- a) What causes Paul to be so willing to receive aids more than once from the Philippians?
- b) Besides the apostle being blessed with the gifts, what are some of the other results of the Philippians' giving? Let's use downward arrows to identify all of these results:



9) Principles of giving & receiving

- a) What principles about giving & receiving can you conclude from looking at the chart?
- b) How might your giving and receiving be changed after learning at this process?

10) Read vs. 21-23 Final Greeting

- a) In Paul's final greetings, who are the people mentioned?
- b) What is the significance of mentioning "all God's people" & "Caesar's household"?
- c) How do they relate to the key themes of this book, ie, unity & power in the Lord?

11) Grace

- a) As Paul concludes this book, what is his prayer for the Philippians?
- b) Paul begins the book with the same benediction in Phil 1:2. What is the significance of this blessing?

12) Response

As we conclude our study of this book, reflect on God's grace for you in the last few months. How have you experienced His grace in your life individually and in your fellowship with believers?

Question #3

Question #4c

1:19-21

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

3:7-8

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

3:10

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

3:13

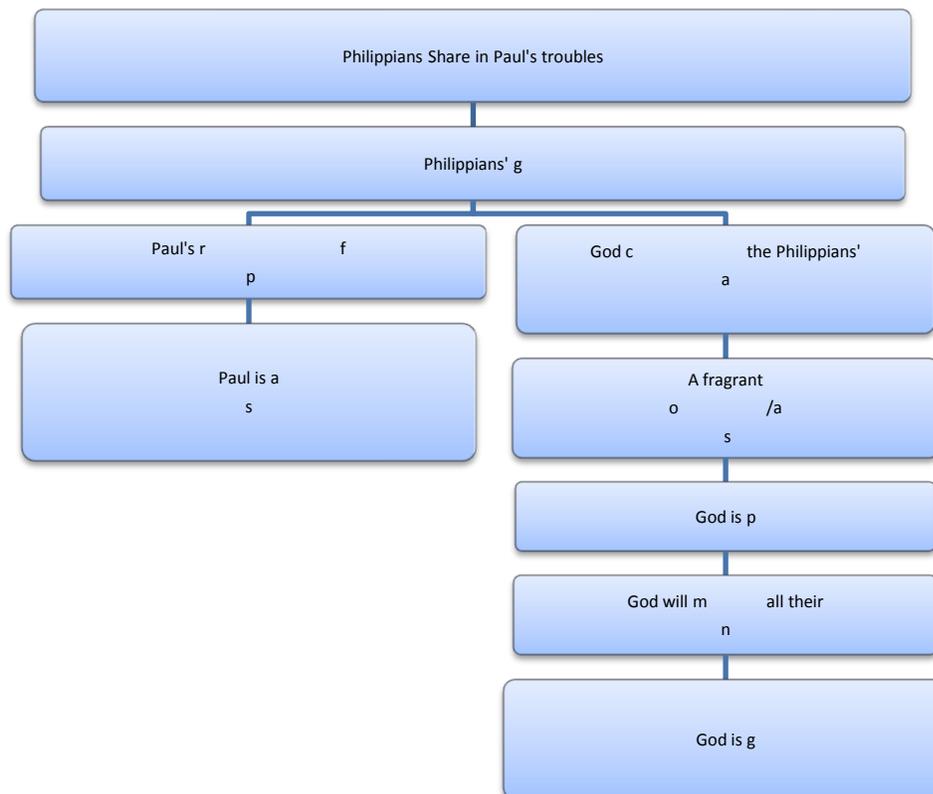
¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead

4:5-6

⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Question #8

I Thess 2:9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.



Questions & Potential Answers

1) Focus

Have you ever received much needed help from someone? Have you ever been in need but did not receive any help at all? Have you ever helped someone in need? How did each of these experiences affect you and your view about making contributions?

2) Read vs. 10-13. Giving as an opportunity

a) What are Paul's reasons for joy?

In the Lord & Philippians' concern for him

b) How do the Philippians show their concern?

Sending him aids more than once when he was in need & sending Epaphroditus, sharing in his troubles

c) Why does Paul call giving "opportunity"?

He seems to indicate that it is timely delivered, coming out of a need. It's also a privilege, not an obligation.

d) What might have caused the lack of opportunity for giving?

The opportunity might be lacking at times when they did not know Paul's where about, when he was in prison, traveling from place to place, in shipwreck, or on the island of Malta. It must took quite a bit of effort for the Philippians to find these opportunities again and again.

3) Contentment in all circumstances

a) In your opinion is Paul a grateful recipient. Support your view with the verses.

b) What are some of the contrasting circumstances Paul mentions that he's learned to be content? How did he learn them?

Whatever circumstances, any & every situation includes: in need vs. have plenty; well fed vs. hungry; living in plenty vs. in want

c) In your opinion, what is harder to learn contentment, plenty or in need, hungry or well fed?

4) Secret of contentment

a) What is Paul's secret of contentment?

Through Him who gives him strength (v.13), in the Lord (v.10), along with concern of the Philippians.

b) How does Paul's contentment affect his confidence?

v.13 He had the confidence that he could do all things through Christ's strength.

Contentment offers a freedom to rely on God's unlimited mighty power and strength.

c) Let's read a few verses from previous chapter to identify other factors which contribute to Paul's contentment.

i) 1:19-21

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.^{1a/}²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Freedom from fear of man or death and freedom to live for Christ.

ii) 3:7-8

⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ

Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

Changed value: by comparison with Christ, everything else pales in value.

iii) 3:10

¹⁰ *I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

A new passion to know Christ deeper and deeper, to experience His power, to share his pains, and to identify with his death.

iv) 3:13

¹³ *Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead*

A new goal to strive forward

v) 4:5-6

⁵ *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.* ⁶ *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

A new peace to rejoice in the Lord knowing that He is near.

5) Response

- a) Was there a time in your life when you felt discontent?
- b) What can you learn from Paul's experience to help you in your situation?

6) Read vs. 14-20 Philippians' Outstanding Sacrifice

- a) In v.11 Paul says he's rejoicing not because he's in need, then what is so good about their giving?

It's good for Paul to know that they share in his troubles. He's not alone as he had experienced (Phil 2:20-21). That is would be to their credit (v.17)

- b) What is outstanding about the Philippians' giving?

They started giving even as young believers. They gave even when Paul was in areas of affluence. They were the only church which shared with him. They did it consistently again and again.

7) Humbly in receiving aids

In v. 20, Paul humbly admits to be in need. What might have been some of Paul's need that were met by the Philippians?

Physical assistance by sending Epaphroditus. Monetary by aids & may be goodies.

Emotional needs met by know others loved & cared for him. It sent Paul a loud message that he's not alone but that he's cared and prayed for.

8) Blessings of giving & receiving

The following verse speak about Paul's attitudes regarding receiving in general.

1 Thess 2:9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

- a) What causes Paul to be so willing to receive aids more than once from the Philippians? Paul must have deeply sensed their genuine love and concern & realized that by receiving, the Philippians will not perceive it as obligation or burden. It would also turn out to be a blessing for them.
- b) Besides the apostle being blessed with the gifts, what are some of the other results of the

Philippians' giving? Let's use downward arrows to identify all of these results:



9) Principles of giving & receiving

a) What principles about giving & receiving can you conclude from looking at the chart?

- Give willingly out of love.
- Giving is a privilege. We should look for these opportunities.
- It is a blessing to give.
- Giving is a witness.
- God is glorified as we share our love and resources with one another.

b) How might your giving and receiving be changed after learning at this process?

10) Read vs. 21-23 Final Greeting

a) In Paul's final greetings, who are the people mentioned?

All God's people, brothers & sisters who are with Paul, Caesar's household.

b) What is the significance of mentioning "all God's people" & "Caesar's household"?

Paul is not desiring to leave any one out. All God's people are one. Caesar's household might be fruits of Paul's imprisonment (1:7 in chains, defending & confirming the gospel; 2:3 it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard & to everyone else...)

c) How do they relate to the key themes of this book, ie, unity & power in the Lord?

Unity - we are all God's people, we are one belonging to Him.

The gospel is not hindered by man's effort. Even when Paul is in chains, the gospel is furthered.

God is in sovereign control. The power of His resurrection can be known by us.

11) Grace

- a) As Paul concludes this book, what is his prayer for the Philippians?

Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with their spirit.

- b) Paul begins the book with the same benediction in Phil 1:2. What is the significance of this blessing?

Though undeserving, God's grace & peace began when we are saved and can be experienced daily by His people. His is near. He promises to be with us in whatever circumstances, in any & every situation.

12) Response

As we conclude our study of this book, reflect on God's grace for you in the last few months. How have you experienced His grace in your life individually and in your fellowship with believers?