

Content In Every Situation: A Six-Session Jog Thru Philippians

Week Five - Philippians 3:17-4:9

"...for 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. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:11b-13 (Key Text)

Focus of the Week: Thinking about the right things

Is our mind in the right place? Do we have the right perspective regarding our time on earth? Are we thinking about the things of God, or are we even able to?

In the Word

Read Philippians 3:17-4:1. Discuss:

- Reread 3:20-21. How should this information affect how we live the rest of our lives?

Read 4:2-3. Discuss:

- Paul addresses a confrontation here. What are some things you noticed about what information he includes or what he leaves out?

Read 4:4-7. Discuss:

- What is this "reasonableness," and how do we let it be known to everyone?

Read 4:8-9

- What does Paul mean when he says "think about these things"?

Reflection:

Let's break down some of the things Paul mentioned we are to think about (whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise...). What qualifies? What doesn't qualify? Why does it matter?

Between You & God (things to meditate on this week):

Are you able to meditate or think deeply about the things of God? Do you find you are able to be in awe of Him, or like so many, do you find yourself desensitized to the truths we read about today? Ask God today to help reveal how we can genuinely *think* about Him more fully.

What strategies, safeguards, or practices can you put in place to point your minds towards those things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise?



Text for Next Week: Philippians 4:10-23

Content In Every Situation: A Six-Session Jog Thru Philippians Week One

"...for 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. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:11b-13 (Key Text)

Focus of the Week: Priorities

How do our priorities in life affect our ability to be content in every situation? Our journey to more effectively live out our Key Text (above) starts with Paul's gospel-centric priorities in Philippians 1.

In the Word

Read Philippians 1:1-11. Discuss:

- Why does he value the Philippian believers so much? What does Paul mean when he says God will complete the good work he began in them?
- What do you find interesting about Paul's prayer? What do we learn about his perspective on life from his prayer?

Read 1:12-18a. Discuss:

- Paul says he was "put here" in prison. Who put him there and why? What do we learn about God's priorities or character that he would "put" Paul in this situation?

Read 1:18b-26. Discuss:

- Paul is confident he will be delivered from Prison. He implies there are two ways this might happen. What are they? How is he okay with this?

Reflection:

How does this first part of Philippians relate to the contentment we read about in 4:11-13?
Where do you feel you are in relation to this text?

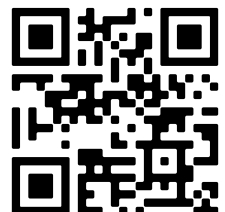
Between You & God (things to meditate on this week):

How do your priorities in life affect those around you? Do others see the gospel as a priority in your life and become more confident in the Lord?

Why have you been "put" at your job, in your community, in your family? Like Paul shared specifically with the Imperial Guard, God has put you into certain people's lives. Who are they? Why does it make sense that you would be the person to share? Are there cases where there is no one else but you to share?

What changes do you need to make to your lifestyle to demonstrate that the gospel and Christ's honor are your top priorities?

Text for Next Week: Philippians 1:27-2:18



Content In Every Situation: A Six-Session Jog Thru Philippians

Week Six - Philippians 4:10-23

"...for 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. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:11b-13 (Key Text)

Focus of the Week: Sacrificial Generosity

In this final passage in Philippians, Paul indicates that these Philippiian Christians are a special kind of generous. How does that generosity, paired with the peace of God (which we read about last week), relate to our ability to be content in all situations?

In the Word

Read Philippians 4:10-13. Discuss:

- Based on the context of Chapter 4, how would you describe the contentment in v.11? What is it?
- Why is it so important to know how to "be content" when we abound?
- So, context, context, context...what does v.13 mean?

Read 4:14-20. Discuss:

- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 is most likely talking about the Philippians (one of the three churches in Macedonia). What might we learn from this passage about the nature of the gift the Philippians sent to Paul through Epaphroditus?
- What is "the fruit that increases to your credit" that Paul seeks in v.17?
- Try to fill in the blank with your own words based on what we've learned in Philippians so far: "If _____, then 'God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Jesus Christ.'"

Read 4:21-23. Discuss:

- Why is this sign-off so special?

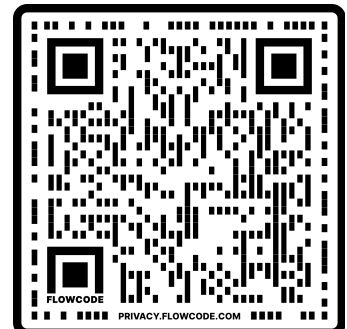
Reflection:

What does sacrificial giving have to do with us experiencing the peace of God?

How do we take all that we have learned from Paul in Philippians and be genuinely content in all situations?

Between You & God (things to meditate on this week):

Consider rereading Philippians on your own time and in one sitting. Make a list of the commands as you go. Ask God to reveal to you where in your walk with him he is calling you to greater obedience, greater faithfulness, and greater sacrifice. Write any such conviction down, and consider making it known to a trusted brother or sister so they can help you take it on.



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Week Three - Philippians 2:12-3:1

"...for 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. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:11b-13 (Key Text)

Focus of the Week: Servitude

We are called not just to all things in humility, but also to do so while having a good attitude. Paul tells us what it looks like to do all things with the Christ-like heart of a servant

In the Word

Read Philippians 2:12-18. Discuss:

- In summary, what does Paul have in mind when he tells us to obey?
- Paul says that God is at work in the Philippians. How would an understanding of this reality motivate or empower the Philippians to obey even in the absence of their leadership?
- What is it about grumbling and disputing that makes it impossible for a person to be "blameless and innocent", even when they are doing "all things" they have been asked to do?
- What does it mean to "shine as lights in the world," and what other scriptures do you know that talk about this?

Read 2:19-24. Discuss:

- How does Timothy embody the teachings we read of in 2:1-18?

Read 2:5-11. Discuss:

- How does Epaphroditus embody the teachings of 2:1-18?
- How did these men grow into these roles?

Reflection:

What ways have you seen grumbling and disputing impact the church?

Who are some people in your life that demonstrate the teachings of Chapter 2? Who are the Timothy's and Epaphroditus' that we know?

Between You & God (things to meditate on this week):

For you, what have you seen trigger grumbling or complaining? What lies are you believing about God, yourself, your situation that drive your negative attitude in these situations?

Is there anything preventing you from shining as a light in the world "without blemish"? If so, how do you incorporate that into the "working out" of your own salvation? Should you wait any longer?



Text for Next Week: Philippians 2:12-3:1

Content In Every Situation: A Six-Session Jog Thru Philippians

Week Two - Philippians 1:27-2:11

"...for 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. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:11b-13 (Key Text)

Focus of the Week: Unity through Humility

What makes a good teammate/team-player? Paul teaches us in Philippians 1:27-2:11 what it means to be members of a unified "team" for the advancement of the gospel.

In the Word

Read Philippians 1:27-30. Discuss:

- What can we conclude here about suffering persecution?
- Where is it important for our church to hold fast and remain unafraid in the face of opposition?

Read 2:1-4. Discuss:

- In verses 2:2-4 Paul gives the Philippians a number of commands. What are they? Lets list them
- With so many people, opinions, and personalities, how is it possible for us to all be "thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, [and] intent on one purpose"? (CSB, 2:2)

Read 2:5-11. Discuss:

- What can we conclude from this passage about the "mind of Christ"? How does having the mind of Christ help us with Paul's exhortations in 2:1-4?

Reflection:

Based on this passage, how would you tell a new believer they can experience contentment in every situation?

Are there frightening opponents in your life right now? How can your community stand with you and strive with you for the faith of the gospel?

Between You & God (things to meditate on this week):

What struggles in life make it difficult to take "the form of a servant"? In the midst of difficulty, what are you believing at a heart level that causes you to turn toward self-service, rivalry or conceit?

Who are the people in your life that God is calling you to have one mind with? How are you cultivating this? When you think of your Christian communities, do you view it as being for the sake of advancing the gospel? What would it look like for you to be part of creating communities of people living lives "worthy of the gospel"?

Leader Notes



Text for Next Week: Philippians 2:12-3:1