

Philippians at Home

Week Seven: Philippians 4:10-23

In this last section of Philippians 4, Paul thanks the Philippian church for their financial gift and then explodes in doxology before giving his final greetings. The gift Epaphroditus brought to Paul from the church in Philippi was probably like the arrival of spring after a long winter or the promise of an effective vaccine after a long year of social distancing. Interestingly, while Paul is grateful for the Philippian's generosity, what matters more is their partnership in the gospel.

Prepare

Find a comfortable seat, grab a Bible and a device to access online content, and ask the Holy Spirit to work in your heart and mind through your study of Philippians.

Watch & Listen

Take a moment to rewatch this [video on Philippians from The Bible Project](#) to help see the forest through the trees as we complete our journey through Philippians.

Read & Discuss

Scripture Reading: [Philippians 4:10-20](#).

- To what extent has the Philippian church embodied Paul's teaching on Christian community (verses 11-18)?
- Paul is deeply grateful for their gift, and yet, even if the Philippians hadn't cared for Paul's needs, he would have been content (verse 11). What is the secret to Paul's contentment?
- Often Philippians 4:13 is a mantra used for reaching our goals: Jesus gives me strength to win the big game or get an A on a test. But, if you set verse 13 in the context of verse 11-12, what "things" does God strengthen us for?
- How does [Philippians 4:4-8](#) relate to the theme of contentment in verses 11-13 and 19? How does verse 19 support a biblical definition of contentment?
- The Philippian church was located in Macedonia and had supported Paul financially from the beginning. What background does [2 Corinthians 8:1-9](#) give us on the Philippian church and their giving habits?
- Read [Philippians 4:17-19](#) alongside [2 Corinthians 9:5-15](#). What similarities do you see between these two passages?
- Why do think Paul used Old Testament ceremonial language to refer to the Philippian's gift? ([Genesis 8:21](#); [Exodus 29:18](#); [Leviticus 4:31](#)) What does this connection teach us about our giving?

Scripture Reading: [Philippians 4:20-23](#).

- Paul explodes in doxology just as he did at the end of Philippians 2:5-11. Why do you think Paul mingles thanks and praise?
- Paul sends a special greeting to some in Caesar's circle who have shown interest in Paul's teaching. What significance do you see in this greeting?
- Paul concludes with a reminder that God's grace is with us. What have you learned through your study of Philippians that gave you a fresh perspective on grace or helped you trust God more?

Apply & Pray

The secret to contentment is trusting in Jesus! God doesn't promise a life without suffering, but we can be content in any circumstance because when we have Christ we have everything.

- Reflect on the implications of Philippians 4:10-23 for your own walk with Christ. How does this text help you to praise God more, repent of a sin, encourage you to take the next step in discipleship, or fill you with hope in God's promises?
- Take a moment to write your reflections in a journal and pray over a few of these key things God is teaching you.