



Series: Momentum

“Is It Possible To Be Content?”

Philippians 4:10-20

A WORD FROM MIKE...

For the next five weeks, we’re going to return to the theme of *stewardship*.

Mention the word “stewardship” and people immediately think about giving money. But being a steward includes more than giving. It involves recognizing God as the owner of everything you have – not just your money, but your time, your intellect, your spiritual gifts, your family, your possessions, your health...everything! And then stewardship means investing those things in ways that bring glory to God and blessing to other people.

With God’s help, “Momentum” is our effort to create a culture of stewardship here at UPC.

Let’s begin by thinking about **contentment**. To be good stewards of God’s resources, you and I need to learn to be *content* rather than *covetous*.



KNOWING GOD

Read **Philippians 4:10-20**. In this passage, the Apostle Paul says that he was content despite being in prison, away from the comforts of home and the fellowship of friends and family. What was the secret of his contentment?

What is the difference between verse 19 (“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”) and the empty promises of those who promote the “prosperity gospel”? In other words, how do you explain the fact that many faithful Christians are poor?



GROWING TOGETHER

Define contentment in your own words:

Share about a time in your life when you experienced the truth of Philippians 4:13 – “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”



SERVING OTHERS

In verses 14-18, Paul thanks the Philippians for their generous financial sacrifice. Are you satisfied with the degree to which you are sacrificing your comforts and pleasures for the benefit of the church and people who need aid? If not, what obstacles are in the way?

In verse 12, Paul says he has “learned” the secret of being content. Becoming a good steward, like becoming an artist, an engineer, a parent, or a doctor, is a process. It takes time. What steps might you take to learn to be more content than you are today?

IN YOUR FAMILY...

- a) Talk about the things you have been coveting lately. Do they really have the ability to make you happy? Why do material things invariably disappoint us? What is the one and only source of true happiness?
- b) Identify a family project you can tackle in order to sacrifice for the benefit of others. (Some ideas: cook a meal for a family that needs encouragement; donate some of your clothing to Manna, our ministry to the homeless; sponsor a child through Compassion International or a similar organization; write a check to the UPC Deacons’ Fund to help those who need money, etc.)

SERMON NOTES