

*PENTECOST ~ May 27, 2012*



## **PHILIPPIANS: To Know Christ and Make Him Known**

### **“Contentment and the Sovereignty of God”**

**Philippians 4:10-20**

This week we tackle the last section of Paul’s letter to the Philippians.

Someone has said, “The world is full of people looking for spectacular happiness while they snub contentment.” How true! The writer of Ecclesiastes was correct when he said, “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income” (Eccl. 5:10).

But in Philippians 4:10-20, God reveals that it’s possible to be totally content with who you are, where you live, and what you have. The key is found in knowing that “God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19).

Enjoy!



## **KNOWING GOD**

**Read Philippians 4:10-20.** Don't forget where Paul was and what he was suffering when he wrote the letter of Philippians. How do you explain Paul's contentment?

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What are some of the "glorious riches" Paul refers to in verse 19?

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Why is contentment something we must *learn*, as Paul says in verses 11-12?

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## **GROWING TOGETHER**

What do you gather about Christian community from this week's passage? What challenges you personally?

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How contented are you? What would it take for you to become a person characterized by greater contentment?

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From your study of Philippians 4:10-20, define contentment.

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## **SERVING OTHERS**

Notice how the Philippians excelled at coming to Paul's aid when he was in dire circumstances (vss. 14-18). How do you think we as a church are doing when it comes to giving aid to hurting individuals and communities? What can we do to improve?

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Talk about a time when God met your needs through people in the body of Christ.

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## **IN YOUR FAMILY...**

(a) How contented is your family? Are you at peace with where you live, who you are, and what you have? Or is there lots of complaining in your home? Rate your family on a contentment scale of 1 to 5 (1 = poor and 5 = excellent). Talk about ways you can see that number get closer to 5.

(b) Paul commends the Philippians for sharing in his troubles (vs. 14). Decide as a family how you can share in the troubles of someone you know who is going through difficulty. What does that person or family need? What do you own that you can share? What can you give away? How can you communicate the love of Christ?

***SERMON NOTES***