

D T H I N G S

E E D C E W U

V E N H T O S

I R U R S N E

E G O I A K J

C I B S I E S

E B A T N T L

R K K W T L A

ABOUND	CHRIST	GREET
JESUS	KNOW	LEARNED
RECEIVED	SAINT	THINGS

→Philippians 4:8–23

MAR 21 2010 Preposition, part 10: The Joy of (Philippians 4:8–23)

→Philippians 4:8–23

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities.

Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.

All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

→Message Notes: God's peace produces contemplation, 4:8-9

Peace makes contemplation possible.

God's peace makes contemplation positive

- Honest contemplation (true, noble, just)
- Pleasant contemplation (pure, lovely, good report)
- Worthy contemplation (virtuous, praise worthy)
- They sent Paul aid several times before
- They sent Paul aid out of their own need, not out of their abundance

Compassion is caring about someone else's needs more than your own

Compassion is easier when you know God will take care of your needs

Christians should be the most compassionate people on earth

➔ **Message Notes: God's power produces contentment, 4:10-13**

The extremes of contentment

- Abase or abound
- Full and hungry
- Have more than enough and less than enough

Either extreme typically trips us up as both make us want more

Contentment, extreme or mean, is a fruit of God's power, not human ability—we aren't naturally content

➔ **Message Notes: God's provision produces compassion, 4:14-20**

The Philippians sent aid

➔ **Matthew 6:31–33**

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

➔ **Message Notes: God's presence produces companionship, 4:21-23**

It is the common bond shared by all Christians

It is the common desire wished for all Christians

➔ **Think about the right things (verse 8)**

The book of Proverbs says: '... as he thinks in his heart, so is he' (Prov. 23:7).

In keeping with that thought, Paul suggests to his readers a 'divine programming' that will ensure their peace. He calls upon them to think about:

- **the true**—those things that correspond to the teaching of God's Word;
 - **the noble**—those things that have the dignity of moral excellence;
 - **the just**—those things that conform to God's standards;
 - **the pure**—those things that are free from the taint of sin;
 - **the lovely**—those virtues that make believers attractive and winsome, such as generosity, kindness, compassion and willingness to forgive;
 - **the things of good report**—those things that give Christians a good reputation and a good name.
- Paul sums it all up by telling his readers to meditate on anything of virtue and anything worthy of praise.

Ellsworth, Roger. *Opening Up Philippians*, p 84, p 85. Leominster: Day One Publications, 2004.

➔ **I have learned to be content**

I have learned—The *I* in *Greek* is emphatical. I leave it to others if they will, to be discontented. *I*, for my part, have learned, by the teaching of the Holy Spirit, and the dealings of Providence (Heb 5:8), to be content in every state.

content—The *Greek*, literally expresses "independent of others, and having *sufficiency in one's self*." But Christianity has raised the term above the haughty *self-sufficiency* of the heathen Stoic to the *contentment* of the Christian, whose *sufficiency* is not in *self*, but in *God* (2Co 3:5; 1Ti 6:6, 8; Heb 13:5; compare Je 2:36; 45:5).

Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, A. R. Fausset et al. *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*, Php 4:11. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997.

➔ **Four Verbs**

Paul balances four activities: "learned and received" and "heard and seen." It is one thing to *learn* a truth, but quite another to *receive* it inwardly and make it a part of our inner man (see 1 Thes. 2:13). Facts in the head are not enough; we must also have truths in the heart. In Paul's ministry, he not only *taught* the Word but also *lived* it so that his listeners could see the truth in his life. Paul's experience ought to be our experience. We must learn the Word, receive it, hear it, and do it. "But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22).

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Php 4:9). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.