

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for March 1-2, 2003

Dale Whitehead

"The Philippians' Gift to Paul"

Philippians 4:10-20

What did Paul's thank you to the Philippians involve?

Thanking the Philippians involved telling them how their gift made him feel.

Paul's response to the financial gift of the Philippians was great joy.

Thanking the Philippians also involved clarifying that their expression of care was a greater benefit for them rather than for him (Philippians 4:11-17).

Paul's clarification began by looking at how necessary he viewed their gift in fulfilling God's purpose for his life (Philippians 4:11-13).

He was not desperate for their gift, neither did he sense a need for their gift because he had learned contentment.

The word "content" (ARKEO) means to be satisfied.

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Contentment was possible because he had come to realize that his circumstances were not a critical factor in him achieving the goal that he was pursuing.

Contentment is something that must be learned even by those who are pursuing the resurrection from the dead and perfect conformity to Christ.

If you want to learn contentment, you must first of all appreciate the difficulty of this pursuit.

The pursuit of contentment is difficult because of the world (1 John 2:15).

The pursuit of contentment is difficult because of our sinful flesh (Galatians 5:16-21).

Because the pursuit of contentment is difficult, learning to be content is not something that will come easily.