

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for March 8-9, 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 began this clarification by looking at how necessary he viewed their gift in fulfilling God's purpose for his life (Philippians 4:11-13).

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

If we want to learn contentment we must first of all appreciate the difficulty of achieving this goal.

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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).

The pursuit of contentment is difficult because of the devil (1 Peter 5:8).

If we want to learn contentment we not only need to position ourselves for victory in light of the difficulties we are facing, but we must draw upon the strength of Christ (Philippians 4:13).

Drawing upon the strength of Christ was Paul's secret in maintaining contentment in every circumstance (Philippians 4:13).

Drawing on Christ's strength allowed Paul to maintain his heavenly focus while keeping his circumstances in their proper perspective (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Have you learned through Christ's strength to maintain your heavenly focus to such a degree that you could be described as content in every circumstance?