

Philippians – Finding Joy in All Circumstances

Week 9 – Key Verse – *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:12-13*

This week we conclude our study of Philippians. I hope you have enjoyed your time in this book as much as Bryan and I have enjoyed leading it. Our hope is that you have learned how to find joy in all circumstances and again we say, REJOICE!

1. Let's look closely at the parts of Philippians 4:8 & 9.
 - a. What are the two commands found in these two verses?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - b. What is the promise associated with the commands?
 - c. What types of things should be our focus?
 - d. Do you feel like most of what you spend your time on would fall into this category?
 - e. "Think about" is a **present tense imperative** verb which means it is a **continuous ongoing command**. It is from the Greek word **logizomai** which means *to consider, to take into account, weigh, and meditate on*. Does this change the meaning of "think on these things" for you?
 - f. "Practice" is also **present tense imperative**. How are we to imitate Paul?
2. We will now look at verses 10-13 which contains one of the most quoted verses of scripture.
 - a. Why was Paul rejoicing?
 - b. "Content" is from the Greek word **autarkes** which means *sufficient for one's self, strong enough or possessing enough to need no aid or support, independent of external circumstances, contented with one's lot, and with one's means*. Was Paul content because his circumstances were favorable?
 - c. What was the secret to Paul's contentment?
 - d. Verse 13 is often used to say Christians can do anything. What do you think it is really saying?

3. We will now conclude with the last 9 verses of Philippians.
 - a. How did the Philippians share in Paul's trouble if Paul was the one in prison?

 - b. According to verse 15, what was unique about the Philippians?

 - c. Look up Acts 18:1-4, what was Paul's trade?

 - d. What is the benefit of Paul and thereby other ministers and missionaries receiving support from a church?

 - e. Do you find anything interesting about Paul sending greetings from the saints in Caesar's household? (This may require some Internet research.)