

P.M. OUTLINE

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"I HAVE LEARNED"

(Philippians 4:10 – 23)

INTRODUCTION

"Learned" - acquired knowledge of or skill in by study or experience; to be instructed in.

"Content" - (W.E. Vine) "primarily signifies to be sufficient, be possessed of sufficient strength, to be strong, to be enough for a thing ... self-sufficient, adequate."

Charles Kelly "Christian contentment is the God-given ability to be satisfied with the loving provision of God in any and every situation."

(2 Corinthians 3:5) "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God."

So, contentment is both an independent and a dependent quality.

Paul's basis for "contentment" is found in 4 areas:

1. THE PLACE: (v11) "in whatever state" (v12) "everywhere and in all things"

(v12) "I know how to be abased ... to be hungry ... to suffer need"

(Acts 14:19) "they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city" (16:22-24) "they had laid many stripes on them, threw them into prison" (20:3) "plotted against him"
(2 Corinthians 6:4-5, 7:5, 11:23-33), and now Paul writes from a prison.

(v12) "and I know how to abound ... to be full"

(Acts 16:15) "come to my house and stay" (16:33-34) "washed their stripes ... brought them into his house, he set food before them, and rejoiced" (28:1-2) "the natives showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome"

Paul exhorted those who "abound" - (1 Timothy 6:6) "godliness with contentment is great gain" (v17-19) "command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty ... be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share ..."

2. THE POWER: (v13) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

3. THE PEOPLE: (v15) "no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you"

1) **Giving blesses the one who receives:** (v14) "you shared" (v18) "I have all and abound, I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you"

2) **Giving blesses God:** (v18) "a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God" (Ephesians 5:2, Romans 12:1)

3) **Giving blesses the one who gives the gift:** (v14) "you have done well" (v17) "fruit that abounds to your account" and (Acts 20:35) "it is more blessed to give than to receive"

Paul notes the people surrounding him: 1) (v21) "brethren who are with me"

2) (v22) "all the saints" 3) (v22) "those who are of Caesar's household"

We need brethren to surround us to encourage us "in whatever state" we are in.

4. THE PROMISE: (v19) "my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ" - the God who had cared for his needs through their loving concern would also care for their needs as they trusted in Him. note (Luke 6:38)