

**SERMON:** The Joy of Contentment in Christ  
**SERIES:** Philippians: Living in Joy  
**SPEAKER:** Pastor Brady

May 27, 2018

**CONNECT** (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

**REVIEW** (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

**SCRIPTURE:**

*Philippians 4:10-23.*

<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

<sup>14</sup> Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. <sup>15</sup> And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. <sup>16</sup> Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>21</sup> Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. <sup>22</sup> All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

<sup>23</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

**SERMON OUTLINE:**

- I. The problem of discontentment.
- II. Learning contentment in Christ.
- III. Joyful giving from contentment.

**GROW** (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Are you content (satisfied with what you have)? What would you say is necessary for contentment? What things contribute to your discontentment?
2. Paul went beyond saying that he was simply self-sufficient and pointed to a “God-sufficiency.” What phrases or ideas in our text point to being sufficient in God/Christ? What can you learn from these truths?
3. In verse 11 Paul says that he has “learned in whatever situation to be content.” How do both the trial of lack and the trial of abundance teach us to be content? Think through together how both of these situations can reveal your idols and drive you to Christ. Can you think of an example of this in your own life?
4. Read Philippians 4:13. This amazing verse is telling us that we CAN face any situation (win or lose) through Christ. How does this verse encourage you today? How does the good news of your union with Christ allow you to face any situation win or lose?
5. How is contentment connected to joyful giving? Look back at verses 10; 14-18. How does Paul describe the church’s giving and his receiving as both a partnership with one another and worship of God? Do you see your giving to the church this way, as a partnership and worship? Or do you see it more as just an obligation?
6. Read verse 19 again. Do you believe this truth? Do you believe God is good and able? Do you believe that what you have is what you need? Do you believe that Christ is enough?

Pray: Confess any discontentment especially with God. Ask God to teach you to be satisfied in him through your union with Christ.