



# The Secret of Contentment

Philippians 4:10-23



# Philippians 1:21

For to me to live is Christ.





# Timothy Keller (1950-2023)

“The sin under all other sins is a lack of joy in Christ.”





# How Being “In Christ” Impacts Us

1. Our being perfected (1:6)
2. Our fruit of righteousness (1:11)
3. Our difficult circumstances (1:13)
4. Our encouragement (2:1)
5. Our hope and trust (2:19, 24)
6. Our glory (3:3)





# How Being “In Christ” Impacts Us

- 7. Our righteousness (3:9)
- 8. Our upward call (3:14)
- 9. Our rejoicing (4:4)
- 10. Our protection of mind and heart (4:7)
- 11. Our provision (4:19)
- 12. Our status as saints (4:21)





# Philippians 4:10-23 (page 982)

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. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. 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 4:10-23 (page 982)

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 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. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 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. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.





# Philippians 4:10-23 (page 982)

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.





# Luke 12:16-21

And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’

And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’

But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”





# Psalm 51:7-8

See the man who would not make God his refuge, but *trusted in the abundance of his riches* and sought refuge in his own destruction!

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I *trust in the steadfast love of God* forever and ever.





# Ecclesiastes 5:10

He who loves money *will not be satisfied* with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.





J. Paul Getty (Oil Tycoon)

“A little bit more.”





**J**esus first

**O**thers second

**Y**ourself last





## G. Walter Hansen, Fuller Theological Seminary

By his strong denial that he rejoiced because his needs were met, Paul refuses to take the role of one who is making a request for gifts from the church. If he drew attention to his needs in a way that implied that he depended on the church for support, he would put himself in a socially inferior position as a dependent on the church's patronage, and he would be obligated to repay the gifts in some material way. If his needs became his focus, he would lose his equality with his friends and he would incur the burden of social reciprocity with mutual financial obligations."





# G. Walter Hansen, Fuller Theological Seminary

Paul transforms the nature of his partnership with the Philippians by turning their attention to his experience of the presence and power of God in the midst of his experience of needs. The triangular nature of the partnership – God, Paul, and the Philippians – changes the expectation of social reciprocity.

**The partnership is not simply a mutual human exchange of material support; now, both sides of the partnership look to God, who will meet all their needs.”**





# Philippians 1:11

...filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ,  
to the glory and praise of God.





# Paul Believed That...

- Every act of Christian ministry develops and enriches the one who performs it.
- Every act of love increases a person's capacity to love more.
- And every sacrificial gift produces spiritual growth in the giver.





# Guy Morrill (1874-1966)

“Our money is ourselves.” It is our very life, our daily work, our time and strength and skill, our very life-blood, minted into coin. When we hold our money in our hands we are holding so many minutes and hours and days of our life, just so much of the vital force as has been expended in its acquisition, so much of our toil and time.





# Guy Morrill (1874-1966)

[So] when we give, we are literally giving our life for our fellow men—to help, to heal, and to save them. Giving is, in reality, laying down our lives for others—losing our lives for Christ's sake, that we may find them in a larger fellowship with Christ, in the world's redemption.





# Guy Morrill (1874-1966)

As we thus realize that our money-giving is self-giving, our stewardship merges into a glorious partnership, not only with Christ, but also with all those, who in any way, are at work forwarding the kingdom.”





# Philippians 4:19

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.





## 2 Corinthians 8:8-14

I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.





## 2 Corinthians 8:8-14

And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.





## 2 Corinthians 8:8-14

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.





# Epesians 1:7-8

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us...





# Paul Tripp – How We Perceive Our \$

- Could it be that, when it comes to finances, we have the whole thing upside down?
- Could it be that the primary purpose for money in our life is not so that we would live, but so that, as God has lavishly done in our life, we would give?
- Could it be that we need something fundamentally deeper than a commitment to a good budget and reasonable spending?





# Paul Tripp – How We Perceive Our \$

- Could it be that what we really need is a brand-new understanding of the purpose of money, one driven by the gospel story?
- Could it be that reducing generosity to a commitment to tithe completely misses the point of money in God's gospel economy?
- Could it be that true transformation of our money      lifestyles will only ever begin as the gospel of Jesus      Christ sets the agenda for our spending?





# Philippians 4:19

My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory  
in Christ Jesus.





# Matthew 6:31-32

Do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.





# Matthew 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!





# Luke 12:24

Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!





# 2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.





# Psalm 34:10

The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord  
lack no good thing.





# Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)





# Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)

He said, 'I will forget the dying faces;  
The empty places,  
They shall be filled again.  
O voices moaning deep within me, cease.'  
But vain the word; vain, vain:  
*Not in forgetting lieth peace.*





# Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)

He said, 'I will crowd action upon action,  
The strife of faction  
Shall stir me and sustain;  
O tears that drown the fire of manhood cease.'  
But vain the word; vain, vain:

***Not in endeavor lieth peace.***





# Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)

He said, 'I will withdraw me and be quiet,  
Why meddle in life's riot?  
Shut be my door to pain.  
Desire, thou dost befool me, thou shalt cease.'  
But vain the word; vain, vain:

***Not in aloofness lieth peace.***





# Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)

He said, 'I will submit; I am defeated.

God hath depleted

My life of its rich gain.

O futile murmurings, why will ye not cease?'

But vain the word; vain, vain:

***Not in submission lieth peace.***





# Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)

He said, 'I will accept the breaking sorrow  
Which God tomorrow  
Will to His son explain.'  
Then did the turmoil deep within me cease.  
Not vain the word, not vain;  
*For in acceptance lieth peace.*





# Job 2:10

Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?





# 1 Timothy 6:6-7

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.





# 1 Corinthians 3:21-23

So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.





# Lamentations 3:24

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”





# Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

It is not, “The Lord is *partly* my portion,” nor “The Lord is *in* my portion”; but he himself makes up the sum total of my soul’s inheritance.

Within the circumference of that circle lies all that we possess or desire. The Lord is my portion. Not his grace merely, nor his love, nor his covenant, but Jehovah Himself.





# Paul Washer, Author

“In the world, a man is known by what he owns; we Christians, however, are not known by what we own, but by who owns us. We are God’s, and his mark of ownership upon us is our great privilege.

**It is true that we have nothing that is ours; but we do have all that is his.”**





# O Holy Night

*Long lay the world in sin and error pinning,  
'till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.*





# O Holy Night

*Long lay the world in sin and error pinning,  
'till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.*

Pining - “to suffer a mental and physical decline, especially because of a broken heart.”

