

Scripture: Ten Commandments (Ex. 20) – 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10
Singing: 309:1-4 – 281:3-4 – 101:1-5 – 71:1-2 – 234:4 – 366:1-3

Let's Study Philippians (34)

THE BEAUTY OF CONTENTMENT

I. It is a grace that rejoices II. It is a grace learned III. It is a grace rooted in Christ

I. IT IS A GRACE THAT REJOICES

- A. The main reason of this letter was to express his gratitude (10, 18)
- B. Yet written to them, Paul's joy (vs. 4) was in another source: vs. 10 (2 Cor. 7:6)
- C. Are we defined by our rejoicing in the LORD as we trace every event to HIM?

II. IT IS A GRACE THAT IS LEARNED

- A. Paul's witness (11-12) was to avoid a misinterpretation about his joy in vs. 10
- B. How did Paul obtain this *jewel of contentment*?
1. Not out of a natural tendency or self-control
 2. Not because he was plain tough (1 Cor. 2:3; 2 Cor 1:3; 7:5)
 3. But he *learned* (vs. 11) or *was instructed* (vs. 12) to be content
 - a. definition of *instructed*
 - b. this 'learning/instructed' is true *spiritual maturity of faith*
 - c. also Paul learned this *only through wrestling* as he followed God
- C. God's way to impart the grace of contentment: *share the cross of suffering*

III. IT IS A GRACE ROOTED IN JESUS CHRIST

A. Paul's confession is experiential counterpart of Jesus' declaration in John 15:4

1. No saint is able to live the new life apart from Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:12-13)

2. Paul's *all things* refer here to being content but applies to all obedience

3. This grace is fed through *meditation* (Phil. 2:5-9) – *leaning* (Phil. 2:13) – *praying* (Phil. 3:10)

a. Paul's testimony is consistent: *1 Tim. 1:12* – *2 Tim. 4:17* – *Col. 1:29*

Closing Reflections and Take Aways:

A. None can be *content* without a living faith uniting us to Jesus Christ

B. Let God's promises cheer your day: John 16:33; Hebrews 13:5-6

GEMS ON SECURITY

Security is not the absence of danger,
but the presence of God, no matter what is the danger.

They are well kept whom God keeps.

Nothing is more foolish than a security built upon the world
and its treasures for they are all vanity and a lie. (Matthew Henry)