



**SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, June 25, 2021**

**Scripture: Philippians 4:10-12**

**NC0186**

**TITLE: The Secret to Contentment**

You just lost your job. What do you feel?

You just found out you have cancer. What do you feel?

Your checking account has been drained. What’s your response?

Your car engine just blew up. How do you react?

What if, in all circumstances, you could say, “It’s all good. God’s got it. He’s got me. Cheers.”?

Let’s be honest. Most of us, if not all of us, would not respond this way. We’d be angry, scared, anxious, and so on. Not the Apostle Paul - Paul could respond well to any circumstances, because he had the “secret sauce”; so do we, if we use it. What do I mean by that? Let’s listen to Paul’s words in Philippians 4:10-12 (ESV):

“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.”

Paul loved this Philippian church. It was 10 years earlier that Paul planted this church. The church supported Paul during his Macedonian mission work. But there came a time where they couldn’t help anymore. That’s why Paul said, “You had no opportunity.” That is until this recent gift they sent with Epaphroditus. But then Paul slaps me in the face by saying, “Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.” Ouch.

Paul’s posture of contentment is a message most of us need to hear today. Now, before I unpack that, there is nothing wrong with desiring something. Desires are not wrong. Wanting ranch with your fries is fine. Desiring a home where you don’t have to put 3 kids in one room is fine. Having a bucket list is great. The problem lies in your contentment. Are you content if the ranch never comes? Are you thankful to God for His provision if you live in the tiny home your whole life? Are you okay if 1 out of 20 items get fulfilled? If not, you’re not content.

Paul had experienced great influence, authority, and some monetary convenience. But he traded it for hardship, poverty, and chains. Yet, he said, whether I have \$1000 or \$0.10, it’s all good. God knows my needs and will provide them. Jesus promised it. God delivers it. So let’s chill out.

So here's my challenge for you today: let's reflect and respond. How are you discontent? Is it in your car? Your home? Your job? Your bank account? Where is it that you are telling God with your lips or actions, "God, this isn't good enough? I want – no, I demand - more." We all have an area—even Pastor Nat.

Then pray to God to change your perspective and give you contentment. God provides lasting peace, joy, and contentment in all circumstances. The question is will we receive it?