

Philippians

A Personal Letter from Your Rabbi, the “Prisoner”

- I. Paul’s *Introduction* to the **Philippians** (1:1-11)
- II. Paul’s *Imprisonment Perspective* (1:12-26)
- III. Paul’s *Instructions* to the **Philippians** regarding
Personal Conduct (1:27-2:30)
- IV. Paul’s *Impassioned Plea* to embrace their **Spiritual
life in Messiah** (3:1-21)

V. Paul’s Final *Imperatives* to the **Philippians** (4:1-23)

1. Giving *Final Exhortations* regarding their **Personal Conduct**
(4:1-9)

2. Giving *Final Words* of Appreciation and Greetings (4:10-23)

¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly,
that now at last you have *revived* your **concern for me**;
indeed, you were concerned *before*, but you **lacked opportunity**.

¹¹ **Not** that I speak from **want**,
for I have learned to be content in whatever **circumstances** I am.

¹² I know how to get along with *humble means*,
and I also know how to **live in prosperity**;
in any and every **circumstance** I have **learned**
the secret of being *filled* and *going hungry*,
both of having *abundance* and *suffering need*.

¹³ I can **do all things through Him** who **strengthens me**.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, you have **done well** to **share with me** in my affliction.

¹⁵ **You** yourselves also know, **Philippians**,
that at the **first preaching** of the **gospel**, after I left Macedonia,

no church shared with me in the matter
of *giving* and *receiving* but you alone;
¹⁶ for even in **Thessalonica** you sent a *gift more than once* for my needs.

¹⁷ Not that I seek the **gift itself**,
but I seek for the **profit** which **increases to your account**.

¹⁸ But **I have received everything *in full*** and have an **abundance**;
I am **amply supplied**,
having received from **Epaphroditus** what **you have sent**,
a **fragrant aroma**, an acceptable **sacrifice, well-pleasing to God**.

¹⁹ And **my God** will **supply** all your needs
according to **His riches** in **glory *in* Messiah Jesus**.

²⁰ Now to **our God and Father** *be the glory forever and ever*. Amen.

²¹ **Greet** every saint in **Messiah Jesus**.
The **brethren** who are **with me** greet you.

²² **All the saints** greet you, especially those of **Caesar's household**.

²³ The **grace of the Lord Jesus the Messiah** be with your spirit.

Message Summary **Rabbi Paul's *Final Words* of** **Appreciation and Greetings**

- A. ***Expressing Joy*** in their **renewed support** of **him** (4:10)
- B. ***Expressing*** his having “**learned**” to be **Content** in ***all***
circumstances (4:11-13)
- C. ***Expressing*** his **appreciation** for their **consistent** and **abundant**
Support for **him** (4:14-19)
- D. ***Expressing Praise*** and **Greetings** in closing

Personal Application ***Learning* the “**Secret**” of **Contentment****

“I can **do all things *through Him*** who **strengthens me** (4:13).”

But **godliness *actually*** is a means of **great gain**
when accompanied by **contentment**.

For we have brought **nothing** into the world,
so we **cannot take anything out** of it either.

If we have **food** and **covering**, with these we shall be **content**.
(I Timothy 6:6-8)

Make sure that your **character is free** from the **love of money**,
being **content** with what **you have**; for **He Himself** has said,
“I WILL **NEVER** DESERT YOU, **NOR** WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,”

Keep **deception** and **lies** far from me,
Give me **neither poverty** nor **riches**;

Feed me with the **food** that is **my portion**,
That I **not** be **full** and **deny You** and say, “**Who is the LORD?**”

Or that I not be **in want** and **steal**,
And **profane** the **name of my God**. (Proverbs 30:8-9)

I know that there is **nothing better** for **them (man)**
than to **rejoice** and to **do good** in **one’s lifetime**;

moreover, that every man who **eats** and **drinks**
sees good in **all his labor**—it is the **gift of God**.
(Ecclesiastes 3:11-12)

Then **He (Jesus)** said to them,
“**Beware**, and be **on your guard** against **every form of greed**;
for **not even** when one has **an abundance**
does **his life consist** of **his possessions**.” (Luke 12:15)

This is the day which the **LORD has made**;
Let us **rejoice** and **be glad** in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Closing Quotes on Contentment

Real contentment must come from **within**.
You and I **cannot change** or **control** the world around us,
but **we can change** and **control** the **world within us**.

- Warren Wiersbe

We would **worry less** if we **praised more**.
Thanksgiving is the **enemy** of **discontent** and **dissatisfaction**.
- *Harry Ironside*

If a man is called to be a **street sweeper**,
he should sweep streets even as **Michelangelo painted**,
or **Beethoven composed music** or **Shakespeare wrote poetry**.
He should sweep streets **so well** that all the **hosts of heaven**
and **earth** will pause **to say**,
here lived a **great street sweeper** who **did his job well**.
- *Martin Luther King Jr.*

All our **discontents** about what **we want** appear to me
to **spring** from the **want of thankfulness** for **what we have**.
- *Assorted Authors*

The **cure** for the **sin of envy** and **jealousy**
is to find **our contentment in God**.
- *Jerry Bridges*

We are a **long time** in **learning**
that all our **strength** and **salvation** is **in God**.
- *David Brainerd*

Contentment ... has an internal **quietness of heart**
that gladly **submits to God** in **all circumstances**.
Joni Eareckson Tada

Contentment is **accepting** what **God has given us**, and,
by **His strength**, making the **most of it**.
C. J. Jackson