

# Session 2 – Contentment in Any Situation

## I. The Circumstances of Paul's Contentment. (Phil. 4:10-11)

### A. Context of Contentment (10)

1. Paul and the Church at Philippi.
  - A.D. 50-52; Paul plants the church at Philippi.
  - Paul completes 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey and begins 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey. Arrested.
  - Paul sent to prison.
  - A.D. 61; Paul writes thank you letter to Philippians while imprisoned.
2. Philippi's ministry to Paul.
3. "Revived your concern"

### B. Imprisonment and "not being in need" (11)

1. House Arrest – what it was like.
2. Not in Need? Really?

## II. Paul's Learns Contentment in Any Circumstance (Phil. 4:12)

### A. Book end #1: Bad Times.

1. "to be humbled . . ." (brought low)
2. "facing . . . hunger . . ."
3. "facing . . . need."

### B. "Book end #2: Good Times.

1. "to abound . . ."
2. "Facing plenty . . ."
3. "Facing . . . abundance."

## III. The Secret of Paul's Contentment (Phil. 4:13)

### A. Why does Paul call this a "secret"?

### B. So, what's Paul's secret? A: Christ.

### C. Can we talk about Authorial Intent?

1. Verse 13 in today's world.
2. The Witch of Endor . . . no not that Endor!
3. The point: Paul wants you to be content in Christ in any circumstance. Not to win the next Superbowl or bowling league championship.

## IV. Renewing the Mind.

1. If contentment in any situation is based on Christ, what does your walk with Him look like? Take an inventory of how you relate to Christ:
  - a. How often are you in the scriptures?
  - b. How regularly do you pray?
  - c. Do you attend church regularly?
  - d. Do you serve at church regularly?

Consider all the types of situations that are in your life. Which of these are the top 3 areas you face temptation to discontentment? Consider praying about this regularly and reading scripture on these topics.