



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—(Phil 4:10-13)

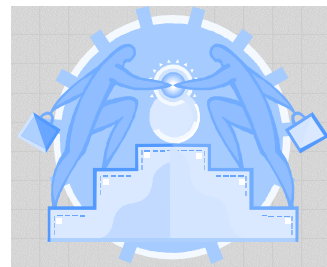
Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. How easy is it for you to be content? What do you think is different between contentment and complacency?
2. Why do you think consistently affirming others leads to a more contented life? How can we make affirmation more of a pattern in our lives?
3. When you are wanting what others have, or wanting more than you currently have, how do you deal with that? Why are we that way at times?
4. Think of some uncontrollable changes that have occurred in your life. How have you finally adjusted to them? How can you apply that approach to other situations in your life?
5. When you find yourself discontent with your situation in life, how do you access Christ's strength?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions



ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -

	9:00		10:45
Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Hixson-Sturgill-Bower
Rm 112		Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims-Fendley	Rm 201	20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 202		Rm 202	30s—Miller-Tripp
Rm 203	Young Singles—Franklin	Rm 203	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 204	Making Peace with Your Past	Rm 204	Blessings in Disguise
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 206	Master Your Money (Ends June 6)—Lux	Rm 206	
		Rm 207	Engaged/Newly Married
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 208	Open—Regis-Hubbard-Anderson- Robertson
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Gym-3rd fl	College Ayres-Getchell

May 9, 2004

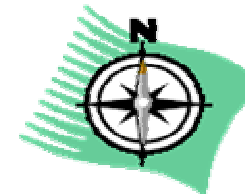
Enjoy the Rest of Your Life

Discover principles for happy living from the book of Philippians

Celebration Fellowship

Saints and Ain'ts

A preview of Philippians 4:14-23



Volume 2, Issue 40

May 9, 2004

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As one person has said, there's only 2 types of people in this world—"saints" and "ain'ts". You're either "in" or your "out". Paul concludes the last section of Philippians by talking about the "saints", and how they act. But there are a lot of ideas about who these "saints" are. Some believe they are a higher class of Christians, those who get to go to heaven immediately when they die, or those who somehow are able to confer special benefits on those who believe in them. Others think they are the really holy Christians, those

too pure to even be defiled by the things of this world. But the wonderful truth is that all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord are saints. We are all "set apart ones" for God's purposes and thus we are grouped together with God, who is holy. This comes about through our belief in His Son, Jesus Christ. So we are either saints, set apart to God, or "ain'ts" - set apart from God. By the Spirit Paul shows that those set apart to God are givers, who receive God's greatest gifts in return, and they are glorifiers, wanting God's glory to be seen



**The secret of happiness
is found in Christ!**

forever and ever. They also find their joy in one another, since we are all part of God's family through Christ. Finally, saints are those who live on the basis of God's grace. This is who the saints are, and how they should act—so are you a "saint" or an "ain't"?

How Much Is Enough?

(Phil 4:10-13)

One of the chapters from Ron Blue's book, "Master Your Money", is entitled "How Much Is Enough?". The point he makes is that until we learn to live on what we already earn, no matter how much it is, we will never have enough. This is the issue that Paul, by the Spirit, addresses in Philippians 4:10-13. We must learn to be content in all situations, and when we do, whatever we have will be enough. Paul began this section with an attitude of great joy because the Philippians had resumed their financial support of him. Paul's joy was "in the Lord" because he knew that the Lord was responsible for the resumption of this support. He gave the Lord credit for keeping him on their minds, even though it had been about 10 years since the last time they helped him. Paul's response shows that when we help others, as they helped Paul, it brings them great joy and encouragement. Additionally, it often leads to

God's glory, since it shows us that He is at work behind the scenes to take care of us. The Philippians' support of Paul shows us how we should support one another. After they had become believers, they immediately cared for Paul and Silas, sent them off to Thessalonica with their blessings, and then sent them financial gifts more than once as they ministered there. They also may have sent brothers from the church to encourage and help them in Corinth. But after this they lost contact with Paul and the support stopped. Often when this happens people get the idea that their supporters don't really care after all (although this is an emotionally immature response), and cynically "write them off". But Paul didn't do that; he continued to believe in them, and when they revived their support he rejoiced as if they had never stopped—and their relationship grew that much stronger. He understood that the Philippians'

support had stopped only because they lacked opportunity—they either didn't know where he was, or were not able to get the money to him. But he was confident that they wanted to support him, which helped him stay strong in the Lord's work. Also, when they resumed their support of him after 10 years it showed his confidence had been well-founded. They really did love him, and had only lacked opportunity to show it. This is a good lesson for us; we often tend to forget about those serving the Lord when the opportunity to help them ceases. But if our love is genuine we must not do this; we must continue to look for opportunities to support them and do so as soon as possible—as the Philippians did with Paul. Paul then clarified why the gift meant so much to him; it wasn't because he "needed" the money. In fact, he said that he was not motivated by "needs" (and he could have added,

(Continued on page 2)

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Philippians 4:10-13 (continued from pg 1)

"wants"). He believed, with the Psalmist in Psalm 23:1, that since the Lord was His shepherd, he lacked nothing. He had all he needed because he knew that the Lord, as the Good Shepherd, would provide. Sometimes we struggle with our "wants", but God never promises to give us our "wants" unless they are consistent with His will. But, we often get anxious over our needs, those things we need to survive. But we don't need to be stressed over either one; obviously, we have not been promised to have every desire fulfilled if it is not in God's plan for us. But God has promised to provide for every need we have, so there is no need to worry about those either. Paul had learned this—to be content in whatever circumstances in which he found himself. As the word "contentment" means, Paul had learned to be "sufficient in himself" in all situations, but only because he was in Christ. Self-sufficiency is a bad thing if it means we are depending on ourselves; but, if we believe we are sufficient because Christ is in us—sufficient in Him—then self-sufficiency is a good thing. This characterized Paul, who had been through many difficult experiences, as well as through many "mountaintop" experiences. Yet he had learned to be

content in both types, when he had humble means, and when he had prosperity. Obviously when things are scarce, we ultimately realize we must depend on the Lord to be content. The truth is, however, that we must also learn to be content when we experience abundance. Our nature is to want more when we have a lot, because the subtle tendency is to believe that what we have is the reason for our happiness. As Proverbs 23:5 states, when we set our minds on wealth it sprouts wings and flies away. Having more is never the key to contentment; rather, the key is to learn how to feel both hungry and full whether we have a little or a lot. In other words, when we have little, we should feel full because it is



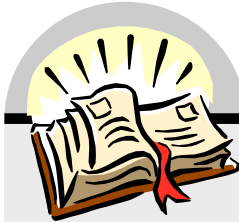
"We must turn to Christ for strength to be content in every situation."

enough, and allow the scarcity to strengthen our dependence on the Lord. When we are full, we should praise the Lord as the source of this blessing, but also realize that we really possess nothing, but are totally dependent on Him. The Bible tells us to be content with our wages, with the food and clothing we have, and with the wealth God has entrusted to us. It is a very important issue, because many times we allow what we have to become our god, and earthly, rather than heavenly, treasure becomes our focus. While human nature leads us this way, it is possible to remain content in every situation as Paul did. The secret, as he said, was "through Christ". Along with Paul, we can do "all things" - meaning be content in every situation—through Him (Christ) who strengthens us. By the Spirit Paul set the example of contentment for us. If we will continue to believe in others as he did, and believe that God is always at work behind the scenes for us, our contentment will grow. Also, if we will learn how to feel fullness and hunger in every situation, our lives will be characterized by contentment. Finally, we must turn to Christ for strength to be content in every situation. When we do, whatever we have will be enough.

Study Questions for Philippians 4:14-23

Paul concludes this very personal letter with a word of encouragement for the Philippians.

1. Read Philippians 4:14. What does Paul tell the Philippians here, and to what is he referring (v10)? Why do you think this would have encouraged them?
2. What does "nevertheless" (v14) refer back to in the preceding verses (v11), and why do you think Paul clarified this? How is this a good example for us?
3. In Philippians 4:15-16 what does Paul remind the Philippians about? How would you define the principle of "giving and receiving"? Looking at Acts 17:1-9, what do you think these gifts did for Paul?



"Having more is never the key to contentment."

4. According to Philippians 4:17 what was Paul really after? What does this mean, and how can we apply in our lives?

5. From the first part of Philippians 4:18 to what level did Paul feel the Philippians had met his needs? What does this indicate about his attitude, and how does it relate back to 4:11-12?

6. How else did Paul describe the gift the Philippians had sent to him? What do these descriptions allude to (see Exodus 29:18), and what further importance does this attach to our gifts that support ministry?

7. Using Philippians 4:19 what promise do we have from God relating to the gifts we give to Him? Why do you think Paul referred to God as "my" God?

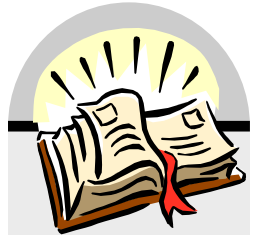
8. By what measure does God supply all our needs, and, in your own words, what does this mean to you?

9. Based on Philippians 4:20 what did the gift of the Philippians lead Paul to do? Since this was the end of his letter, what would be another reason Paul would add this declaration? How can we apply this?

10. What word is used 3 times in Philippians 4:21-22? What point is Paul emphasizing by this, why is this so important, and how can we follow this example?

11. What is similar between the last verse of Philippians and the opening 2 verses of the book? Why do you think Paul concludes all of his letters (Romans-Philemon) with this same desire?

12. From Philippians 4:14-23 write out a prayer that reflects how you should give and receive, how you should worship, how you should feel about fellow Christians, what you should expect from God, and desire for others from God.



Memory Verse

"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19