

Theme: Christ enables us to live a life of joyful thanksgiving, regardless of the circumstances of our present existence.

## I. Intro – Taken Out of Context

- A. Long interview in paper – nervous
- B. “Prayer is not important”
- C. I wonder if Paul ever worried about that?
- D. Philippians 4:13, 19 – oft misquoted words
- E. Whole passage misunderstood often

## II. Paul’s Letter of Thanks

- A. The Philippians (financial) gift to Paul
  - 1. Renewed your concern – v10
  - 2. To share in my troubles – v14
  - 3. Giving and receiving – v15
  - 4. Sent me aid – v16
  - 5. The gifts you sent - v18
- B. A look at Paul’s note of thanks
  - 1. Rejoice (4:4); concern; no opportunity (v10)
  - 2. Not need; content; Stoic/Cynic; quotes (vv11-12)
  - 3. Need/plenty; well fed/hungry; plenty/want (vv11-12)

- 4. Paul’s humbling life – 2 Cor 11:23-27; (3:10)
- 5. Both ends; passive voice “brought low” (v12 ESV)
- 6. No self-sufficient Stoic – Christ-sufficient! (v13)
- 7. Yet thanks for sharing in my troubles (v14)
- 8. You’ve always shared (15-16; (2Cor 11:9); 1:5-7)
- 9. Only group to do this – thanks! (v15-16)
- 10. Giving and receiving – TT for friendship (v15)
- 11. Paul not after gift/future gifts; credit to their account (v17)
- 12. Full payment; even more; sacrificial terms (v18)
- 13. God will amply supply your needs through Christ (v19)
- 14. This includes every need – 1:27; 2:13; 3:9; etc.
- 15. Doxology – no other way to end! (v20)

## III. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Am I content – whatever my circumstances?
  - 1. Have I learned the secret to being content?
  - 2. Can I be content – no matter what?
- B. Am I being seduced by false prophets of the age?
  - 1. Am I being seduced by marketing to be discontented?

2. Servant – Ad-Man;
3. False prophets of health/wealth Gospel
4. Creflo Dollar quote; if only Paul knew!
5. Luke 12:15

C. Our sufficiency is in Christ

1. He is God's provision to us
2. He enables us to do all things, want or wealth
3. He enables us to stand in face of opposition
4. To live is Christ – all else is dung
5. Discontented – look to Him; not circumstances!

## A Life of Joyful Thanksgiving

Philippians 4:10-23

May 11, 2008

Blessed Be Your Name  
Philippians 4:19-20 (ESV)

- “renewed your concern” – v10
- “share in my troubles” – v14
- “giving and receiving” – v15
- “sent me aid” – v16
- “the gifts you sent” – v18

“The happy man is content with his present lot, no matter what it is, and is reconciled to his circumstances.” – Seneca

“man should be sufficient unto himself for all things, and able, by the power of his own will, to resist the force of circumstances.” M.R. Vincent, on the teaching of Stoicism

23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 2 Corinthians 11:23-27

5 because of **your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now**, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for **whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.** Philippians 1:5-7

See, there are some people that believe not in prosperity. There are some people that don't want to hear it, they don't want to have anything to do with it. You say money in church, they put their little finger up and they go to walking out the church. As broke as they are, they go walking out church with their little finger up, 'cause Satan's got their minds blind. They've been blinded in their minds. They don't want to hear about prosperity. They don't want to hear about, that God is a God that wants to put money in your hand, that God is a God that has prosperity on His mind. They don't want to hear that. "Bless God, I want to hear about love and joy and peace." **Well, you need to hear about money, because you ain't gonna have no love and joy and peace until you get some money!** (Creflo Dollar - *Praise The Lord*, July 20, 1999)

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Lk 12:15

#### AD MAN

Bruce Wright, Sandie Brock

Watch out here comes the ad man with a message for your ears

He uses all your weaknesses and plays upon your fears

He fills the air with jingles, he puts sex in every ad

He tells us that our image has to follow every fad

Ad man, such a bad man

Hiding in your magazine

Ad man, such a bad man

Sneaks into your living room

Right through your TV screen

You say I'll be successful when my perspiration stops

If I deodorize and sanitize, I'll make it to the top Everybody's gonna love me if my laundry turns out bright

I've got to shave my legs each day, my teeth are shinny white

The ad man is a prophet of the century

Making all his profit off of you and me

You've researched all your commercials

And you're turning on the charm

You're using it against me like a needle in my arm

You keep pushing merchandise, seducing me to buy

You tell me that I need another fix, another high