

22 Philippians 4:10-23

Doing All Things through Christ

1. Phil 4:9-10

- a. There are things I need to learn as a Christian. Some things I need to see done.
- b. Some things are better learned by example than by explanation: prayer, attitude, reactions, charity, love, forgiveness, rejoicing must be done, not just the understood
- c. *"shall be with you"* - this occurs when you align yourself with God's will for you
 - i. Our goal is to live life with God, not to be in conflict with him
- d. *"lacked opportunity"* - Do not lose opportunity to do a good thing, look for them.

2. Phil 4:11-12

- a. *"respect of want"* - This is opposite of how we usually respond. Don't we want?
- b. If you are the receiver, it is not the gift, but the care of the giver that matters more.
- c. *"I have learned"* - Which may require experiencing the state of want (poverty, lack)
- d. *"whatsoever state"* - refers to his circumstances, his physical condition
- e. *"to be content...I know... am instructed"* - This is a learned skill, it takes practice
- f. *"both to be full and hungry"* - a Prov 13:7/2Cor 4:7 lesson → The harder is full/rich
- g. Paul did not learn how to fill his stomach, but how to be content while full
- h. We know how to be in our flesh, we must relearn rich/poor in Christ
- i. Being full can mean having all you want, or reducing your list of wants
- j. How to abound → We have things to give; We lack things to learn what we have.
- k. Godliness with contentment is great gain - 1 Tim 6:6

3. Phil 4:13

- a. The most popular verse in the book, "I can do it!", "Yes, we can!"
- b. The last 5 words are the most important, but more attention is given to the first 5
- c. *"all things"* - defined in 4:11 "states"; not every dream your heart makes
- d. If the verse were about our dreams, it would be proven wrong over and over...
- e. You can be content while full/hungry, rich/poor, rain/shine, friends/enemies
- f. What strengthens you is doing all things through Christ (any other means will fail)
- g. How? We need to be in Christ, we need the mind of Christ, to live through Christ
- h. *"through Christ"* means doing things as members of his body - Eph 3:16, 6:10
- i. In whatsoever state you are in you are attached to Christ, this is your strength

4. Phil 4:14-23

- a. *"communicate"* - give to others, we often communicate with words, but not here
- b. 4:15 - *"beginning of the gospel"* - the same gospel Paul always preached everywhere
- c. 4:17 - *"fruit abound to your account"* - they will be rewarded - 1 Cor 3:12, Col 3:24
- d. 4:19 - This verse should be read carefully, it says your needs will be met by Christ
- e. *"grace be with you"* - the riches of grace, the riches of Christ, explained in this letter