

What is Paul's secret of contentment (10-12)? What was his situation when he wrote these words? For help, look back at Philippians 1:13.

Do you know someone who, like Paul, is unusually content despite being in very difficult circumstances?

How did the Philippians contribute to Paul's sense of contentment (v. 10, 14)? Who has God placed on your heart to help out right now?

REFLECT

Are you comfortable sharing your needs with God and/or other believers? How do you think this affects your sense of security and contentment?

RESPOND

What are you worried about right now—big or small? What do you need? Pray and tell God what you are facing. Imagine Him hearing you as a good Father hears a favored child. How does He respond? Share your worries with a person God brings to mind, and pray together for each others' needs this week.



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Instructions for



:finances

The Bible gives us the best perspective on money and outlines best practices of how to manage it.

BEST PERSPECTIVE...

Our resources come from God.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (see also Luke 16:11-12)

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

Wealth is not a measure of our self-worth.

Proverbs 22:1-2 (see also Jeremiah 9:23-24)

*A good name is more desirable than great riches;
to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.*

Rich and poor have this in common:

The LORD is the Maker of them all.

Money is only a tool, never a goal.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (see also 1 Timothy 6:9-10)

*Those who love money never have enough;
those who love wealth are never satisfied with their income.
This too is meaningless.*

Financial decisions are spiritual decisions.

BEST PRACTICES...

Give back to the Lord and His good work.

Proverbs 3:9 (See also 1 Corinthians 16:2)

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops;

Pay your taxes and bills.

Romans 13:7

Give to everyone what you owe: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

Save for the unforeseen future.

Proverbs 6:6-8

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

Use debt carefully and avoid it whenever possible.

Proverbs 22:7, 26-27

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender ... Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.

Invest and plan diligently.

Proverbs 21:5 (See also Proverbs 13:11, Proverbs 27:23 and Ecclesiastes 11:2)

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Spend wisely and submitted to the Lord.

James 4:1-3, 13-17 (page 831)

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures ...

Contentment in All Circumstances

LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

If you got \$10,000 you didn't expect, would you most likely save it (for what), spend it (on what), or give it away (to what/whom)?

On a scale of 1-10, how content are you right now?

What principle, insight, or quote from the sermon was most meaningful to you?

READ

Philippians 4:4-14

Paul commands the Philippians to do one thing and not to do another. What are they (v. 4, 6)? Is it really possible to turn these things on or off? How?

What are we to do when we find ourselves getting anxious, and what are we promised when we do so (v. 6)? What should we include with our requests? Why is that important?

Share a time you have known God's peace by telling Him your needs. Why in the world does God want us to tell Him our concerns?

What is the relationship between focusing on good things (v. 8-9) and feeling God's peace and contentment? What would you say to someone who said that that is looking at life through rose-colored glasses?