**Lesson 16: You Have Everything You Need!**

Text: Philippians 4:10-13

**Introduction**

A group of farmers in Pennsylvania was barely getting by. They were living paycheck to paycheck until it was discovered that they had oil deep beneath the surface of their properties. Virtually overnight they went from being poor farmers to wealthy landowners! The resources were there all the time. They only needed to tap into them. The same is true with many believers. They are barely getting by in their Christian lives. In Jesus Christ, you have everything you need! You just need to receive your strength from Him. Paul learned this important life lesson and passed it on to the Philippians. We will glean from this truth in this lesson.

1. Paul learned to be content in all circumstances.
   1. He was appreciative of the generosity of the church in Philippi in his time of need. (v. 10)
      1. One of the reasons for his letter was to express gratitude for their love offering.
      2. He was glad that their *care* (concern) *flourished* *again*. (v. 10a)
      3. He knew they would have participated earlier, but they lacked the opportunity to help him. (v. 10c)
      4. “Many Christians today have the opportunities, but they lack the concern!” (Wiersbe)
   2. He did not want them to think that he was complaining. (v. 11a) He was not saying that he was in poverty or had need. He had found a resource that was not dependent on his circumstances!
   3. Paul learned to be content regardless of his circumstances. (v. 11b-12)
      1. You might be surprised to know that the word *content* means to be self-sufficient. Warren Wiersbe says it means to be “contained.” The idea is that you have what you need. He continues, “It is a description of the man whose resources are within him so that he does not have to depend on substitutes without.” The word was used by Greek philosophers of the day in this way.
      2. Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament agrees. *Content* is defined as “sufficient for oneself, strong enough or possessing enough to need no aid or support; independent of external circumstances.”
      3. Does that mean we have what we need in ourselves? Absolutely not! Paul knew that there was nothing good in himself! (Rom. 7:18)
      4. Rather, Paul found all he needed in Christ. “The Christian is not sufficient in himself; he is sufficient in Christ. Because Christ lives within us, we are adequate for the demands of life.” (Wiersbe)
   4. This is a lesson Paul had to learn.
      1. The fact that he *learned* to be content indicates that contentment does not come naturally for us.
      2. There are two words used to describe the learning process.
         1. *Learned* (v. 11) – This word means to come to know or realize through practice or experience.
         2. *Instructed* (v. 12) – This word means to learn the secret of something through experience or initiation.
      3. If Paul had to learn it, then so will we.
   5. The source of contentment he discovered sustained him in both extremes of life. (v. 12)
      1. He knew what it was to be *abased* (brought to a humble condition).
      2. He knew what it was to *abound* (have more than enough).
      3. He knew what it was to be full and to be hungry.
      4. He was instructed in abounding and suffering need.
   6. Times of need and abounding test our faith.
      1. Most know how to respond in times of need. They readily turn to the Lord.
      2. It is more challenging to your spiritual walk to experience times of abounding. In these times, we are less inclined to look to the Lord. When you have what you need, you may fail to see how much you need the Lord.
      3. Paul clearly understood that he needed the Lord in both situations.
   7. Paul’s confidence was in Christ as he faced various circumstances of life. (v. 13)
      1. Don’t just read the first part of verse 13. “I can do all things.” Many try to live this way. “Believe in yourself” is the mantra of the day. This is not Paul’s confidence.
      2. At the same time, don’t skip the first part of verse 13! Paul was confidently stating that he had sufficient resources to face any circumstance.
      3. He had this confidence because he found his source of strength in Christ. *Strengthen* means “to cause someone to have the ability to do or experience something; to make someone able.” (Low-Nida)
      4. Christ strengthens the dependent believer. He makes us able! (John 15:4-5; 2 Cor. 3:5)
   8. Illustration: “The most important part of a tree is the part that you cannot see, the root system, and the most important part of the Christian’s life is the part that only God sees. Unless we draw on the deep resources of God by faith, we fail against the pressures of life.” (Wiersbe) Is your life rooted in Christ?
2. Central Idea: Paul learned to be content because he found everything he needed in Christ.
3. Application: You can learn to be content by finding everything you need in Christ.
   1. In what areas of life do you struggle with contentment?
   2. In what ways are you depending on your own ability?
   3. How can you strengthen your connection to Christ?
   4. What are you facing today that Christ is not able to handle?
   5. Since this is a learning experience, don’t give up too soon! The more you learn about Christ, the more you will be content.

**Conclusion**

“Paul did not have to be pampered to be content; he found his contentment in the spiritual resources abundantly provided by Christ” (Wiersbe). The same can take place in your life. Christ has not changed. He is still sufficient for the circumstances of life. Don’t trust your own faithfulness. Trust the faithfulness of Christ. Joy is produced when we find our sufficiency in Christ.