

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

I HAVE LEARNED, IN WHATSOEVER STATE I AM, THEREWITH TO BE CONTENT

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING NOVEMBER 24, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **PHILIPPIANS 4:11-23**

Philippians 4:11, *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

1. BACKGROUND

- a. This morning we preached from the **Book of Philippians Chapter 4:1-10**, written by the Apostle Paul between AD 60 and AD 62.
- b. I take the position this Epistle was written from prison in Rome where Paul wrote three other Epistles.
- c. Those Epistles being **Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon.**
- d. This Epistle, from Paul to the Philippians, was written to believers in Europe in the city of Philippi.
- e. This letter came as a wonderful testimony of Paul's relationship with the Philippian church.
- f. As a matter of fact, it seems this church was closer to the Apostle Paul than any of the other churches he planted. **Philippians 4:15**, *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*
- g. Their love for him was so strong and his response to that love is reflected throughout this Epistle.
- h. Philippians deals with Christian experience at a level on which all believers should enjoy. **John 10:10**, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
- i. On the eve of this Thanksgiving we will find out how to live the abundant life. **John 10:10**, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
- j. This type of abundant living is where the Lord Jesus Christ wants each believer to be continually as we journey through this life. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, *Rejoice evermore. 17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
- k. Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey.
 1. He was traveling with Barnabas on the first missionary journey as they went into Galatia territory.

2. They were a wonderful missionary team and founded many churches in spite of all the persecution they encountered.
3. Paul attempted to visit these churches on his second missionary journey; however, Barnabas wanted to take his nephew John Mark, but John Mark turned back for some reason on the first missionary journey and Paul did not think it was a good idea to include him.
4. This conflict split this missionary team and Paul took Silas and Barnabas took John Mark and they went in different directions. The mission of each team was highly effective, and God used them mightily.
5. It seems that Paul intended to widen the missionary circle that he encountered on his previous missionary journey because of the great population and the highly civilized inhabitants.
6. The Greek culture and Greek learning were centered there.
7. Dr. Luke records in the **Book of Acts** Paul's attempt to go south into the providence of Asia of which Ephesus was the leading city.
8. When Paul attempted to go south the Spirit of God put a road block in his way. **Acts 16:6**, *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,*
9. *We are to never question the timing of Almighty God; He is always on time.*
10. Although he could not go south, Paul thought he would travel north, however God had other plans.
11. **Acts 16:7** says, *After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*
12. *So, we see Paul neither could go south nor could he go north. He came from the east so there was only one direction left for him to travel and that was west.*
13. He went west as far as Troas, to go further would have required him to board a ship so Paul waited there for instructions from God. **Acts 16:8**, *And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.*
14. *Sometimes we feel like God has forsaken us when He requires us to wait. Remember that His grace is sufficient. 2 Corinthians 12:9, And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
15. I can tell you from previous experience, we have to learn to wait on the Lord.
16. The Bible says in **Isaiah 40:31**, *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*
17. *We have to continue to do what God has called us to do in our particular locale as we wait on further instructions from Him as did the Apostle Paul.*
18. The orders from God finally came by a vision in the night. **Acts 16:9-10**, *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10: And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.*
19. Paul and his companions, Silas, Timothy and Dr. Luke boarded a ship and took off for the continent of Europe.

20. What a blessing it was to see that God had called the Apostle Paul to preach the Gospel in Europe. **Acts 16:12**, *And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.*
- l. Paul's first encounter in Philippi is recorded in **Acts 16:13-15**, *And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. **14:** And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. **15:** And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*
- m. Paul's first convert was not a man of Macedonia but was in fact a woman named Lydia holding a prayer meeting down by the river.
- n. Prayer is a powerful tool and it is great that Paul was able to be under girded with prayer as this woman was a great encouragement to him.
- o. Lydia was now a member of the Philippian church, since she had been saved and scripturally baptized.
- p. There were also other members of this church worthy of note.
1. There was a girl who was delivered from demon possession. **Acts 16:16-18**, *And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: **17:** The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. **18:** And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*
 2. Another member of this church was a Philippian jailer whom Paul and Silas had witnessed to. They were in jail because this woman who had a demon brought her master much income. After salvation, this master being deprived of his income threw Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail. **Acts 16:19**, *And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, **Acts 16:23-24**, And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely: **24:** Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*
 3. God intervened, and the jailer was miraculously saved. **Acts 16:29-31**, *Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, **30:** And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? **31:** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. **34:** And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and **rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.***
 4. We are told later about Paul being arrested in Jerusalem and the Philippian church losing sight of him for two years, the minute they found out he was in prison in Rome, they immediately called their pastor Epaphroditus and dispatched him to that location. He finally returned to Philippi bearing the Epistle to the Philippians. **Philippians 4:18**, *But I have all, and abound: I am full,*

having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

- q. Paul wrote this Epistle to thank the church and express his love towards them; he had no doctrine to correct in this church as he did in the Epistle to the Galatians, neither was there any confusion of doctrine to address as had been in the church of Corinth.
- r. There was only a small ripple in the stream in the Philippian Church that involved two woman who were having problems, and Paul spoke to that issue not considering it a very serious matter but he did straightened it out and challenged them to be like-minded, putting their eyes on the Lord and His Work and not the circumstance. **Philippians 4:2**, *I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.* The use of the Preserved Word of God by the apostle Paul is a great example of how to handle problems in the local church.
- s. His letter to the Philippian believer is a great Epistle espousing Christian experience and we will be considering this today at some length.
- t. Several additional themes contained in this mighty book are:
 - 1. A quitter never wins. A winner never quits.
 - 2. What goes into our mind comes out in our actions. **Romans 12:2**, *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
 - 3. God never fails; He is always right on time.
 - 4. Lasting joy comes only through a relationship and fellowship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Psalms 51:12**, *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*
 - 5. Christians also have problems, but Christ has the power to overcome each and every one of them as we turn to Him for guidance. **1 Corinthians 10:13**, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* **Colossians 2:10**, *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*
 - 6. We have no basis for pride; our perfect example is reflected in the mind of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who gives us the perfect solution.

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message November 24, 2019

3. SEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- k. **I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**
 - 1. **Philippians 4:11**, *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*
 - 2. A great principle is laid down by Paul for us as Christians.
 - 3. Paul learned to be content in whatever state he was in. **Being content means that our attitude is on the positive side.** **Philippians 4:6-7**, *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. **7:** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

4. At this time Paul was in prison.
 5. What a great attitude from an inmate locked up for the cause of trying to get the Gospel to a lost and dying world.
 6. Many times, we look at our circumstances and unpleasant people around us and it reflects in our personality and our outward disposition.
 7. We as Christians need to learn to keep our mind on the Lord rather than on our situation. **Isaiah 26:3**, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.
 8. We need to live as if we are in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus at all times. **Ephesians 1:3**, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
 9. This is where the Christian life takes its fullest approach resulting in abundant living.
 10. Sometimes the Lord allows everything to go well but sometimes we are going to have valley time. **1 Peter 4:12-13**, Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.
 11. When we understand this principle, things will go smoothly in a consistent Christian life. There may be some bumps, but God's grace is always sufficient. **2 Corinthians 12:9**, And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
 12. These aforementioned verses in Philippians get down to where the rubber meets the road.
 13. We need to take heed with respect to the aforementioned passage and apply it to our lives daily.
- I. I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**
1. **Philippians 4:12**, I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
 2. This is also a great principle laid down for us from the Word of God.
 3. When we have valley time, God does not intend for us to display a sour disposition or seek sympathy.
 4. The Lord wants us to work out our own salvation. **Philippians 2:12**, Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
 5. Do not get me wrong: we cannot work for our salvation; it is by grace through faith and not of ourselves. We must always remember that salvation is of the Lord likewise, rewards are earned by the Believer. Three magic words, **Justification**- all of God means just like I have never sinned. **Acts 13:39**, And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. **Sanctification**- our part-grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 3:18**, But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. **Philippians 2:12**, Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence,

work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **Glorification**- all of God- **1 Peter 1:4**, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **Romans 8:23**, And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

6. There are going be times when we have various trials, adverse circumstances and things do not go our way. **Job 14:1**, Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. **Luke 10:3**, Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.
7. Our contentment must rest upon Christ and cannot be based on circumstances. **Philippians 3:13-14**, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**
8. Sometimes God will allow us to have abundance and sometimes we will be at a low point in our life.
9. Paul indicated to us we are to learn to be both full and hungry.
10. God is molding us to be conformed to the image of His Son. We are indeed a work in progress. **Romans 8:29**, For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **1 Corinthians 9:27**, But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.
11. We have to learn how to not let anything roll us over.
12. Paul learned this truth and enjoyed the abundance that God gave him, although outward circumstances were not always pleasant.

m. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

1. **Philippians 4:13**, I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
2. In order to get into Heaven we must be in Christ Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. **Galatians 6:15**, For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.
3. There is a requirement to know Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour; that is the message of the Gospel. **Philippians 3:10**, That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
4. The way we get in touch with Him is we must realize that we are sinners and cannot save ourselves.
5. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23**, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
6. The Bible also states in **Romans 3:10**, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
7. Once we realize these truths, the Bible says in **1 John 1:9**, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
8. We must believe in our heart that Jesus was raised from the dead. We must place our faith in His blood. **Romans 10:9**, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth

the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

9. **Philippians 4:13** must be taken in complete context.
 - a. We must be saved and born again.
 - b. We must be in fellowship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
 - c. We must empathically be in the will of God and doing what God has called us to do.
 10. With these facts firmly in place, we can truly say **"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."**
 11. We are not asking things amiss, we are asking according to His will.
 12. **John 15:7** states, *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*
 13. My friend, do you get answers to your prayers?
 14. Are you running on your own power or are you running on God's power? **Isaiah 40:31**, *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*
 15. We cannot run on His power and stay in His will unless we are students of the Preserved Word of God. **2 Timothy 2:15**, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* **Psalms 119:9**, *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.* **Psalms 119:130**, *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.* **Psalms 119:160**, *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.* **Romans 3:4**, *God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;* as it is written, *That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*
 16. We must not allow ourselves to only read what others have said about the Bible; **we must allow the Bible to sink deep within our heart and soul.**
 17. We must realize there are other books of the Bible and not just the Gospel of John. **Romans** thru **Philemon** provide correct doctrine for the New Testament Church.
 18. Our life and God's will must be based on the total Word of God.
 19. **We have to respect it, hold it in awe** because there is joy, satisfaction, and sheer delight in being in God's will and doing what He has called us to do. **Psalms 119:161**, *Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.* **Psalms 119:160**, *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*
 20. When we are in God's will, the duties, in which He has called us to perform, will not be a stressful situation. **John 7:17**, *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*
- n. **I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**
1. **Philippians 4:17**, *Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*
 2. Paul is reminding the Philippians that he wants them to get dividends.
 3. When we invest our money, we want a return on our investment.

4. Paul is saying that *our return will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ when we receive our rewards that God is going to give us. **2 Corinthians 5:10**, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*
5. We would all like for the Lord to say to us *Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. **Matthew 25:21***
6. We need to be a part of the effort in getting the Word of God out to a lost and dying world. Jesus Christ has set before us an open door. **Revelation 3:8**, *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.* **Revelation 3:20**, *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*
7. Paul was very close to the Philippians and they wanted to meet his needs and provide for his necessities.
8. They wanted to communicate with him during the time of his affliction.
- o. But my God shall supply all of your need.**
 1. **Philippians 4:19**, ***But my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
 2. Too often this verse is misquoted.
 3. He does not say He will supply all of our needs, which would imply luxurious items and things that are of the world, but the Lord will supply all of our need according to His riches in glory.
 4. The Bible tells us in **Psalms 37:23**, *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.*
 5. *The Lord will take care of His own. **Psalms 37:25**, **I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.***
 6. I do not believe He will give us a surplus to store up and hoard for a rainy day.
 7. This is the reason why the philosophy of this Church is to spend what God has given us to get the Word to a lost and dying world.
 8. There is no shortage in His program.
 9. *He will take care of all our need.*
 10. He takes care of us with lovingkindness and tender mercies. **Psalms 25:6**, *Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.*
- p. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever.**
 1. **Philippians 4:20**, ***Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.***
 2. Remember the glory always goes to God.
 3. To God be the glory; great things He hath done. **Revelation 4:11**, *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*
- q. Salute every saint in Christ Jesus.**
 1. In **Philippians 21-23**, ***Salute every saint in Christ Jesus.** The brethren which are with me greet you. **22:** All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's*

household. **23:** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. It was written to the Philippians from Rome by Epaphroditus.*

Paul lays down some principles that will enhance our relationship with other believers.

2. He emphasizes that the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is essential with respect to all of our endeavors.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour?
- b. Was there a time when you put your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus?
- c. *If you do not know Him as Saviour my friend, you cannot enter into the very presence of God.*
- d. You cannot have that joy we have talked about on a consistent basis.
- e. If you know Him and are saturated in His Word, you can receive that joy.
- f. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- g. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- h. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- i. Come to the side of the Living Saviour today and be saved.
- j. Please stand.

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