

Philippians 4:10-23. Thankful giving hearts

We are going to talk today a little about giving.....ewww....i know.....you should have slept in..

That's ok.....the bible talks a lot about giving....some 800 times.....and about 25% of Jesus' sermons focused on money....

So technically.....1 out of every 4....

The latter half of Phil. 4 deals with giving.....and.....hold on to your hats, b/c we are going to take a verse you are all familiar with and change the way you view it.....

but....i want to tackle giving b/c it is the single greatest indicator of what we are passionate about....

The best way for you to figure out what you are passionate about – get wallet/checkbook/cc statement – it will tell you

Paul est. the Phil ch. 10 years prior

Philipi was a poor European city.....but joyful....Paul wrote to encourage....from prison

This letter of encouragement.....so.....here is our context.....everything we read today....

Written by Paul to Philipi as a letter of encouragement.....from prison.....to an extremely poverty stricken church.....

Lets read **Philippians 4:10-23**

Some looked down on the city.....jewish culture – wealth = blessed, poverty =sinful

v.10 They supported him as a missionary, but apparently that support waned in recent years....no reason

But Paul loves the church at Philipi.....wants them to know.....he is not in need....but absolutely appreciates their gift to him

The church at Philipi is modeling for us how we are to give.....

When we think of giving – we think of tithe – 10%.....this was the OT standard for giving and can be a guide for us today....but when we moved into the NT....giving took a different direction....

What we see in the NT is grace giving.....i encourage you to study 2 cor 8/9 and what you will see there is a pattern for how the NT church was taught to give....

Regularly, proportionally (according to means), and sacrificially, and cheerfully,

And look what Paul says....**v.11** – I have learned in whatever situation..... I am to be content

Now right there, each of our hearts should flutter a little bit.....and....its going to really flutter here in a minute.....

But....what does it mean to be content....

When we speak of content – it means, I don't need anything to be happy.....Just Jesus

Listen.....when it comes to contentment.....the worst thing you can be told.....is that God will give you bigger and better things if you just give him more money.....

A pastor friend of mine relates it like this....that the prosperity gospel teaches that God is a pinata and faith is a whacking stick.....just whack the pinata with faith and he'll give you a new car, a new home, big bank ac

if that is what you are chasing after....you can never be content.....

Imagine for a moment.....my daughter is getting her permit tomorrow.....I can't wait to send her to the store

I hand her 20 – tell her....for dinner tonight we need bread, eggs, milk, hamburger meat, lettuce.....and there should be enough for you to pick up a snack for yourself so treat yourself to a candy bar....

She comes home, she has candy bars, donuts, chocolate milk, mountain dew.....and I ask....wheres the stuff we need for dinner.....and she says...oh.....i didn't have enough money.....no, you stole it...

But....you go ahead give her another 20....she goes, comes back.....more donuts, fancy coffee, a lottery ticket, Again...says....i didn't have enough.....i send with another 20....she comes back with....ring pops, bubble gum

You know what id do.....id probably go to my son.....see if he could go get me a loaf of bread for less than 60...id be looking for a better steward

So much of our financial struggle comes from being bratty kids that think God owes us more....when in actuality....we struggle because we aren't good stewards....

Now.....earlier I said hang on- because ther is a verse in here that doesn't mean what you think it means....

v. 11 Paul is saying.....I have learned to be content....i have learned to not be a bratty kid....ive learned to get the brea

v. 12.....contentment when brought low and abound....in every circumstance, I have learned the secret plenty/hung

Real quick....**v. 12** – what is Paul talking about – MONEY – he has the secret to learning how to deal with it...

What is the secret....**v.13** I can do all things through Christ.....so.....v.12 is about MONEY and the secret to it....

v.13....I can do all things.....do you realize when you hear that verse it relates to money....our contentment in life with material possessions....

The way we view giving directly reflects our contentment....

Here is the application for today.....**Thankfulness is contentment in God's sovereignty**.....to get there we have to have an understanding of God's sovereignty..

Isaiah 46:9-10.....God is sovereign.....he appoints and purposes all things.....everything that happens is either because he declares it, or purposes it

God – if you have purposed for me to be in poverty – I can do all things

God – if you have purposed for me to be rich – I can do all things

God – if you have purposed for me to be in prison for preaching the gospel – I can do all things

God- if you have purposed for me to worship in a comfortable worship center – I can do all things

God – if you have purposed for me to be hungry – I can do all things

I can be content in all these things.....why.....b/c of v. 19 – God will supply every need

Weve covered a lot of ground today.....so how do we respond....

1. Have a conversation with the Lord and ask yourself, do I need to adjust my giving - to be regularly, proportionally, sacrificially, cheerful
2. join church
3. salvation