

# CITIZEN OF HEAVEN

## The Secret to Contentment



### SERMON BASED STUDY

WEEK 11 - Nov 22 - FALL 2020

**INTRODUCTION:** Welcome to your Small Group. This is our final week for our Fall Sermon Based Study. The next Small Group semester begins the week of Sunday, February 7, 2021. Let's talk about how we can possibly stay connected and fellowship together during the break.

**THE BIG IDEA: A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN** - A Citizen of Heaven lives content in Christ.

**ICEBREAKER:** For the next year, would you rather be given the gift of an extra hour a day or a 30% increase in your pay? Why?

#### S. O. A. P. (STUDY OBSERVATION APPLICATION PRAYER)

**Read Philippians 4:10-23** - "I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

<sup>14</sup> Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. <sup>17</sup> Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

<sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>21</sup> Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. <sup>22</sup> All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

<sup>23</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen."

#### OBSERVATION

**Philippians 4:10-23** - Content Christians are grateful and give God glory.

- Paul's contentment was the result of:
  - Entrusting his needs to God (vs. 10)
  - Trusting God during difficult situations (vs. 11)
  - Finding his security in God's resources instead of his circumstances (vs. 12-13)
- Paul's contentment resulted in:
  - Gratitude to the Philippians for their gift (vs. 14-18). Paul knew that God would meet his needs. He rejoiced that their gift was evidence that God was working in their lives.
  - Gratitude to the greatest Gift-giver of all (vs. 19). Since God was at work in the lives of the Philippians, they could be sure that God would meet all their needs.
- Paul's contentment and gratitude will never end. God will be glorified forever and ever. (vs. 20)
  - Every saint belongs to God's family. (vs. 21-22)
  - The grace of Jesus is the source of all blessing and spiritual life. (vs. 23)

## APPLICATION (Questions)

- 1) How would you define contentment and what are some of the causes for discontentment in your life?
- 2) What are the world's solutions for finding contentment? What is the Apostle Paul's solution? (vs. 10-13)
- 3) What can help you grow in your contentment in Christ?

Now that we have completed 3 months of studying all 4 chapters of the book of *Philippians*; please share how you would answer the following:

- 4) What is one thing that really stood out to you from the *Citizen of Heaven* sermon based study series?
- 5) How did you experience transformation from studying *Philippians*?

## GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP DISCIPLINES IN PHILIPPIANS

A disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ enjoys giving prayerfully, regularly, and generously to meet the needs of others and further the kingdom of God on this earth.

This week, set a goal to analyze your giving according to God's principles:

- Recognize that God owns everything. We are managers of his money. *Psalms 50:12*
- Giving is to be a personal decision and cheerfully done. It is an investment in God's eternal kingdom. *2 Corinthians 9:6-15*.
- Giving blesses the recipient and the giver. *Acts 20:35* and *Phil 4:17*.
- Giving is an antidote to greed. *Luke 12:15-21*

God said that no one can serve God and money. How we as believers give, save, and spend is based on the place God has in our hearts. Developing a financial plan based on biblical principles is an essential step in living according to God's plan.

## HOW MY GROUP CAN PRAY FOR ME

## RESOURCES (For more in-depth study)

1. [Preceptaustin.org](http://Preceptaustin.org) or [StudyLight.org](http://StudyLight.org) - Find a very detailed commentary about each of the verses in this passage
2. [Gotquestions.org](http://Gotquestions.org) - Search for "What does the Bible say about budgeting?" for a biblical look at how to spend money
3. [Blueletterbible.org](http://Blueletterbible.org) - Commentaries are located under "tools" next to each Bible book verse.
4. [Daveramsey.com/fpu](http://Daveramsey.com/fpu) - Offers resources to help believers handle money