

## Exegetical Notes – Philippians 4:10-23

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

[charleshjensen@aol.com](mailto:charleshjensen@aol.com)

### Philippians 4:10-23

#### Verses 10-13

***<sup>10</sup> I rejoice 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.***

- Having called the church to rejoice (see Philippians 4:4), Paul told them that he rejoiced, too, and the cause of his rejoicing was them!
- Specifically, he rejoiced in them because they had “renewed their concern for him.” It seems that at some time in the past, the Philippians had sent gifts to support Paul’s ministry (see verses 14-16). But these gifts stopped. Though the people in Philippi continued to support Paul in other ways, there had been no need or opportunity for them to continue to support him financially. But now, Paul had received another gift from them for which he rejoiced greatly.
- Paul took pains to reassure them that he was not in financial need. He told them that God had taught him to be content no matter what his circumstances. The word translated “content” means “self-sufficient” He learned to be content with what God provided. He learned to be self-sufficient in the sufficiency of God’s grace, and God’s grace made him content. No matter what the outside circumstances, Paul learned to trust God.

#### Verses 14-16

***<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.***

- Now, Paul received another gift from the Philippians.
- He remembered that at one point, they had been the only congregation that supported him financially and that they had sent him gifts in the past when he was in need.

### **Verses 17-20**

***<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.***

- Paul wanted to make it clear that he was not asking the Philippians to send him more. He rejoiced because of what they have done for him and trusted God to provide for him.
- The gift was, apparently, delivered to him by Epaphroditus.
- The gifts were like fragrant offerings and were pleasing to God.
- Paul was confident that God would supply their needs as he supplied Paul's need and this is to His glory. God is forever faithful to His children.

### **Verses 21-23**

***<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.***

- This was Paul's final greeting to the Christians in Philippi. He ends the book by calling God's blessing on them.
- He sent them greetings from those with him and the Christians "in Caesar's household." The phrase implies that some of those who are part of the Emperor's household, perhaps even members of Caesar's family, have made Jesus their Lord and Savior.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on Philippians 4:10-23. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)