**PAUL’S SECRET FOR FACING LIFE’S CIRCUMSTANCES**

Philippians 4:11-13, 19

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**INTRODUCTION**

On Paul’s 2nd missionary journey, he spent time in Philippi, which is in Europe. Ever since God led Paul to go westward into Europe, the great centers of the missionary enterprise and the predominance of the Gospel have moved ever westward. Now in our day, God is doing something special here in Asia as it has become the center of the mission movement. Today, we will end our study of Philippians and see Paul’s secret for being contented in facing any circumstance life brought his way.

1. **WHAT PAUL HAD LEARNED**
2. Paul had learned by **experience** how to be contented in life.
3. He had learned how to be contented when life provided **little**.
4. He had learned how to be contented when life provided **much**.

*“Little is much if God is in it; labor not for worldly gain.*

*There’s a cross, and you can win it if you go in Jesus’ name.”*

1. Paul had learned the **meaning** of contentment in any life circumstance.
2. He had learned how to be contented whether he was **hungry** or **full**.
3. He had learned how to be contented whether he was **rich** or **poor**.

*The key to Paul’s contentment was not in what he had or did not have. It was more than physical things! Let us see what the secret to his contentment was.*

1. **WHAT KEPT PAUL CONTENTED**
2. True contentment comes from what one **does**, not from the things one has.
3. The things we have may be **taken** from us at any moment.
4. The things we have done can **never** be **taken** away from us.

*Paul realized that those things that he had would someday be left to others and eventually waste away. What he had accomplished would last for all eternity. His things are all long forgotten, but his writings will last forever.*

1. The **secret** behind our contentment is **Jesus**.
2. Our strength is **unmatched** when Jesus empowers us.
3. Our strength is **unlimited** when Jesus lives within us.

*“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” Praise God!*

1. **WHAT PAUL SAYS TO US (v. 19)**
2. God will **take** **care** of us: He will meet all our needs!
3. God will **provide** abundantly for us: He gives out of “His glorious riches.”

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, Paul reminds us that the things of this world come and go. They last only for a moment and are soon forgotten. However, what we do for Christ will have value for all eternity and shall accompany us to Heaven. What we have that truly counts is what has us—i.e., Jesus lives in us and controls us for His glory. We can do all things through Him!

 *“In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;*

*In my life, Lord, be glorified today!”*