

**OAK RIDGE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Ricky D. Turner, Senior Pastor**

**BIBLE STUDY – PHILLIPIANS CHAPTER – FOUR**

**October 7, 2020**

**“THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT”**

**Philippians 4: 10 – 19**

**INTRO:**

Concluding this letter to his beloved Philippian congregation, Paul expressed his deeply felt gratitude to them. He had enjoyed as we have discovered a special relationship them since the founding of the church a Philippi. Ad on point, they were the only church that had supported him financially. Now they had again sent him a gift, and this passage is Paul’s thank-you note (if you will) to them.

Beneath the surface of Paul’s expression of thanks to the Philippians is the picture of a man utterly content in spite of such severe circumstances. Paul know how to rejoice in every circumstance and be free from anxiety and worry, because his heart was guarded by the peace of God and the God of peace. My friends, his example is especially relevant to our discontented culture.

So, there five principles of contentment here from the conclusion of Paul’s letter here in these remaining verse. Thus, a contented person is:

- 1). Confident in God’s Providence v. 10
- 2). Satisfied with Little v. 11
- 3). Independent from Circumstances v. 12
- 4). Strengthened by Divine Power v. 13
- 5). Preoccupied with The Well-Being of Others vs. 14 – 19

## **“The Saints of God” - Philippians 4: 20 -23**

The term “saints”

- 1) The Character of Saints vs. 21, 22
- 2) The Worship of Saints v. 23

Note some Key word in the text:

- at last . . . you lacked opportunity v. 10
- whatever state I am v. 11
- abased . . . abound v.12
- to be full and to be hungry v.12
- all things v. 13
- through Christ who strengthens me v. 13
- shared v. 14
- in the beginning of the gospel v. 15
- concerning giving and receiving v. 15
- the fruit v. 17
- abounds to your account v. 17
- a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God v. 18
- all your need v. 19
- according to His riches v. 19
- every saint v. 21
- Caesar’s household v. 22

My friends, as we close this wonderfully book of Philippians one of my favorite books in the Bible, my prayer is the we understand that *contentment* is a highly prized but elusive virtue. And it only comes from being rightly related to God and trusting His sovereign, loving, purposeful providence. Nevertheless, people seek it where it cannot be found – in money, possessions, power, prestige, relationships, jobs, or freedom from difficulties. But by that definition contentment is unattainable, for it is impossible in this fallen world to be completely free from problems. Let’s remember that Christ and contentment go together. As we’ve just studied, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*