

Book:	Philippians
Series:	Rejoice in the Lord!
Lesson 14:	The Joy of Christian Benevolence
Text:	Philippians 4:10-23 (Part 1)
Date:	December 22, 2013
Next Lesson:	Philippians 4:10-23 (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION

The theme of Philippians 4:10-20 is Christian benevolence, or meeting physical needs within the household of faith. And again, we notice immediately that this is another cause for joy. Paul finds tremendous joy (i.e., “I rejoiced...greatly,” v. 10) in the physical (as in material, not conversational) fellowship of the church. *Believers should seek the joy of Christian benevolence.* Whether they are in need or in a position to meet a need, Christians should “rejoice in the Lord” (3:1; 4:4, 10) and “stand firm in the Lord” (4:1) by enjoying physical fellowship with one another. That is easier said than done, however, for both the selfishness of our flesh and the materialism of our world teach the needy to be dissatisfied and the prosperous to hoard or splurge. In this passage, Paul uses the physical fellowship between himself and the Philippian believers to call us to Christian benevolence and to model two spiritual ingredients that contribute to its achievement.

THE ONE IN NEED: _____ (vv. 10-13, 17)

1. The _____ of contentment (v. 11) —
“learned”

Application:

2. The _____ of contentment (v. 12) —
“whatever situation...any and every circumstance”

Application:

3. The _____ of contentment (v. 13) —
“do all things through Him who strengthens”

Application:

4. The _____ of contentment (v. 17) —
“seek the fruit that increases to your credit”

Application: