

[10] 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. [11] I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. [12] 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. [13] I can do all this through him who gives me strength. [14] Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. [15] 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; [16] for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. [17] Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. [18] 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. [19] And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. [20] To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. [21] Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. [22] All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. [23] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Sermon Outline: Three opportunities for us when it comes to money:

- 1) An opportunity to know contentment
- 2) An opportunity to express gospel partnership
- 3) An opportunity to please the Lord

Questions:

1. In this sermon, Pastor Jonathan said that it was possible to be rich but not content, or to be content but not rich. Paul said he had learned the "secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." How was he able to be content even in distressing circumstances? What was his and our source of true contentment?
2. How does our giving or serving accomplish God's purposes and please Him?
3. Paul was dependent on the gifts from the church at Philippi. How did they impact his life and ministry? How does Paul's attitude differ when we compare the periods when he received gifts with times when none arrived?
4. Paul saw giving as opportunities to please God. There were 3 reasons given about why giving is a blessing for us. What were they? [hint: see sermon outline] Discuss examples from your own life of when you took or didn't take the opportunity.
5. What does your cheque book and calendar reveal about your priorities?
6. Paul said that the gifts from Philippi were "credited to their account" (v. 17). What is credited to your account?