

The Secret of Contentment

Philippians 4:10-14

Gratitude expressed for the gift, 10a

- Paul is *rejoicing* yet again, 1:4,18, 2:2,17, 18, 4:1 (a *great joy* here).
- Paul's joy stems from them *thinking* of him (1:7, 2:2,5, 3:15,19). *At last* sounds neg. but ≠ a reproof. He is grateful for their attitude not the gift.

Qualifier—but no real opportunity till to give till now, 10b

Why bring up the lack of their recent support? Paul realizes it wasn't for a lack of concern but a lack of opportunity (note 4:16-18).

Qualifier—but no real need to give since I am content, 11-13

- Why bring up the lack of need? It's sounding like "Thanks, sort of."
Again Paul gets autobiographical to offer himself as an example.
 - *Learned to be content* = stoic term used for rugged self-sufficiency.
 - *Learned the secret* = cultic terminology. We want contentment, but. . .
 - A list of diverse circumstances is offered where Paul maintained contentment—which ones listed are surprising to see?
 - Doing "all things" ≠ a claim we can do anything but that we can *endure* anything with Christ's help, II Cor. 12:9,10, Col. 1:29.
- Q: How content am I? Any hints that may tip me off?

Gratitude expressed for the gift restated, 14

Thanks again for partnership in ministry (recall 1:7,30).

