

The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment (Philippians 4:10-13)

- Paul loved the Philippians deeply, they loved him & supported him
- This small church had many problems, not least of which was poverty
- Yet they sacrificially gave to Paul, sending Epaphroditus with their gift
- Yet, Paul knows that, though generous, they struggle with contentment
- The fact that Paul dealt with anxiety in (vv.6-7) is a clue to this reality

I. Paul's Joyful Testimony (v.10)

- Paul's spontaneous joy* : Paul rejoiced at the Philippians' care for him
 - 🔑 Prisoners in Rome were dependent on loved ones for food & clothes
 - 🔑 "flourished again" literally means "blossom again"
- Paul gives a sensitive qualification*
 - He quickly adds: "though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity"

II. Paul's Example of Godly Contentment (4:11, 12)

- Christ centered contentment*
 - 🔑 Paul uses a stoic word: contentment in God & not our circumstances
- Dynamic contentment*
 - "I know how to be abased, & I know how to abound" (12a)**
 - 🔑 "abased, brought low" or "humbled" implicit reference to ch 2:8
- Extreme contentment*
 - Paul knew how to be content in all circumstances (2 Cor 12:9,10)

III. The Source of Paul's Contentment (4:13)

- A man *in* Christ "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me"