

Contentment

Paul's "Thank You Note"

Philippians 4:10-20

Keys To Paul's Contentment

- He was thankful...
 - For their care (v. 10).
 - For them sharing in his distress (v. 14).
 - For the aid they sent him on previous occasions (vv. 15-16).
 - For them doing something “well pleasing to God” (vv. 17-18).
 - For the fact that his and their needs were supplied by God (v. 19).
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Keys To Paul's Contentment

- He looked out “for the interests of others” (2:3-4).
 - He was too concerned about their welfare to spend much time thinking about his own (1:27-28; 2:19-24; 2:25-28).
 - Thankful for their “gift,” but even more for the spirituality they demonstrated in sending it (4:17-18).
 - Get busy looking out for others, and we'll soon forget our own woes.
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Keys To Paul's Contentment

- Spiritual things, not material, were his top priority.
 - He didn't even like to "speak in regard to need" (v. 11).
 - "Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account" (v. 17).
 - The ONE thing that mattered to him most—3:12-24.
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Keys To Paul's Contentment

- In regard to material things, he focused more on necessities than luxuries.
 - “You sent aid once and again for my **necessities**” (v. 16).
 - “God shall supply all your **need**” (v. 19).
 - Nothing wrong with abounding or being full (v. 12, 18), but something is wrong when it's expected.
 - “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11)—do that and it will actually increase our gratitude.

Keys To Paul's Contentment

- He trusted in God's provisions—both spiritual and material.
 - “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (v. 11).
 - But to whom did he quickly deflect the credit? “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (v. 13).
- God provided for Paul's needs, and will do the same for all His children (v. 19).