



Title: Experiencing Philippians

Lesson 8

Read the introduction, the text, Reflect on them and take notes: (10) minutes

Read: Look to the Lord for your needs; not to people.

Philippians 4:10-13 (NASB) ¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned *before*, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Reflection: **John 4:32-34 (NASB)** ³² But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?" ³⁴ Jesus *said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. Also, see **John 6:27; 52-58**.

Ask:

1. What is your understanding of what Paul is addressing in verse 10? Why do you think the situation was addressed in this manner? How can this encourage me/you/us to address situations with "our neighbors" (everyone the Lord places in front of you) in daily interactions?
2. In verse 11, Paul makes the statement, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." How do you understand / interpret that statement? What impact does it have on how we view the things the Lord has blessed us with?
3. What is your understanding of "The secret of being filled and going hungry?" (verse 12) How does this impact our daily walk / life? What area(s) do we need to be encouraged / helped to work out those things and be more like Christ?

Read: Caring for each other (one for another) to do "God's work."

Philippians 4:14-18 (NASB) ¹⁴ Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction. ¹⁵ You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; ¹⁶ for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. ¹⁸ But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

Reflection: **2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NASB)** ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

2 Corinthians 8:13-16 (NASB) ¹³ For *this* is not for the ease of others *and* for your affliction, but by way of equality— ¹⁴ at this present time your abundance *being a supply* for their need, so that their abundance also may become *a supply* for your need, that there may be equality; ¹⁵ as it is written, "HE WHO *gathered* MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO *gathered* LITTLE HAD NO LACK." ¹⁶ But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus. Also, see **Ephesians 5:2** and **2 Corinthians 2:14-15**

Ask:

1. What is your understanding of Paul's praise of the people of Philippi for sharing in his [Paul's] affliction? How does this encourage you; especially, when viewed from the perspective of advancing the Kingdom? Is there any lack, or deficit of areas in our own life which we as brothers and sisters in Christ can comfort and encourage one another?
2. How do you interpret the statement, "I have received everything in full and have an abundance, I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God." (verse 18)?

Read: The promise of God's supply, through grace, for His glory.

Philippians 4:19-23 (NASB) ¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen. ²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Reflection: 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NASB) ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Romans 11:36 (NASB) ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

Ask:

1. What is your understanding of verse 19? (And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.) How has this played out (been observed and experienced) in your life?
2. What is your understanding of Paul's exhortation to greet all the saints, passing on their greeting, and the report of what the Lord is doing (even in Caesar's household) verses 21 and 22?