



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Thank God, Dear Christian!
October 25th, 2020

Philippians 4:10-20

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.

1. Think of a time when you wrote “thank you” notes. What was occasion? What did you say? How have your “thank you” notes changed over the years?
2. What tricks does Satan use to sow seeds of discontentment in our hearts? What is his goal in doing so? How is he succeeding in your life?

3. What is Paul’s “secret” to contentment? Why does he call it a “secret”?
4. Read Romans 8:32. How does Paul’s secret (v.13) change the way we look at and deal with the troubles of life?
5. Why is Satan’s “divide and conquer” strategy such an effective means of attacking Christian faith? When has Satan attacked you in this way? How did God rescue you?
6. Paul found in the Philippians’ gift, much more than monetary assistance. Explain (see Philippians 4:14). What does Paul’s experience teach you about the gifts that you receive from your fellow Christians? What does this teach you about gift giving?
7. In what sense are the gifts that we Christians give, credited to our “account”? (Verse 17) How might this verse be misapplied?
8. List some ways that sin threatens to “stink up” the gifts we Christians give. Why is this so discouraging?
9. Since we still sin, how can our gifts be a “fragrant offering, and acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God”? (verse 18) Why is this so encouraging?
10. Why is Commitment Sunday at Mount Olive a time to give “double” thanks?