INTRODUCTION

* We have spent the past three months considering Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. Paul had a special relationship with this church. He was led by the Holy Spirit to travel into Macedonia, instead of Ephesus and Bithynia, and saw a great response to the gospel there. Paul declared at the beginning of this letter how he rejoiced in the Lord upon every remembrance of them and for their koinonia (fellowship; oneness) with him in the ministry of the gospel from the "first day" unto the timing of the writing.
* The Philippian believers instantly began to share financially with Paul and his fellow-workers to facilitate their ability to spend more time sharing the truth of God's plan of Redemption with the Gentiles.
* Paul, throughout his letter, has encouraged and exhorted them to continue in their mindset of oneness in Christ. They needed to have a koinonia in the Proclamation of Christ, in the Posture of Christ, in the Pursuit of Christ, and in the Presence of Christ.
* Over the past two weeks, we have been considering this final part of the exhortation by considering Paul's challenge to them that this Oneness in the Presence of Christ would ultimately be revealed in their Godly Temperament. Today, we conclude our study of Paul's letter by considering Paul's declaration that having a oneness in the Presence of Christ would also be revealed in their Godly Contentment. Paul accomplishes this through providing first his own testimony and then that of the Philippians.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE TESTIMONY OF PAUL (v. 10-13)

A. Paul's J_____ (v. 10) ... His R_____ ...

1. DIRECTED TO THE LORD
2. DIRECTED TO THE PHILIPPIANS

B. Paul's E_____ (v. 11-13) ... His L_____ ...

1. LED HIM TO CON_____ IN L_____ (v. 11-12)
   a. He Learned How to Live When He Was Ab_____ (cf. Matt 18:4; 23:12; 2 Cor 11:7; Phil 2:8; James 4:10; 1 Pet 5:16)
   b. He Learned How to Live When He Was Ab_____ (cf. Matt 5:20; 13:12; 14:20; 15:37; 2 Cor 8:2,7; 9:8,12)
2. LED HIM TO CON_____ IN C_____ (v. 13)
   a. That Christ would _____ Him (cf. 2:13)
   b. That He would have the _____ to accomplish the task

II. THE TESTIMONY OF THE PHILIPPIANS (v. 14-23; 2 Corinthians 8:1-6; 9:2)

A. The G_____ of the Church (v. 14-18)

1. PAUL'S C_____ (v. 14)
2. PAUL'S R_____ (v. 15-16)
3. PAUL'S I_____ (v. 17-18)
4. PAUL'S C_____ (v. 19)

B. The G_____ of God (v. 19-20)

1. THROUGH THE FULFILLING OF OUR NEED
2. THROUGH THE PRAISE OF OUR LIPS

C. The G_____ of the Saints (v. 21-23)

INTROSPECTION

* How does your current financial affairs affect the level of your anxiousness and thankfulness?
* Have you learned how to be content in Christ - in both times of affluence and times of need?
* How would Paul describe your "fellowship in the gospel"? Do you have "koinonia" in the ministry of the Gospel?
* Have you "first" given yourself to the Lord? Is His Kingdom your priority?
* Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

* How do balance "needs" and "greeds" as we consider God's promise to meet our needs? How do we help one another "learn" the lessons of contentment without seeming to be unfeeling or "stingy"?