



## WHATEVER HAPPENS! "Be Content" Philippians 4:10-20

No. 3818

Stuart Briscoe

The Philippian church supported Paul in his missionary work, and he was grateful. But he insisted that he was not dependent on them. His dependence and contentment rested elsewhere. His teaching on the subject is applicable to all.

### I. Learning the Secret of Contentment.

- A. The meaning of contentment. (Greek: "arkeo," "arketos")
  - 1. That which is sufficient. Matthew 25:9; John 6:7
  - 2. The attitude that is satisfied with sufficient.
    - a. 1 Timothy 6:8
    - b. Luke 3:14
    - c. Hebrews 13:5
- B. The enemies of contentment.
  - 1. The leech's twin daughters. Proverbs 30:15a
  - 2. The four things never satisfied. Proverbs 30:15b-16
- C. The secret of contentment.
  - 1. The Stoic view: self-sufficiency. (Greek: "autarkes")
  - 2. The Pauline view: Christ-sufficiency. vv. 12-13
    - a. Well fed or hungry...
    - b. ...in plenty or in want...
    - c. ...the presence of the living God...
    - d. ...and the power of the risen Christ...
    - e. ...enable Paul to do all that is necessary to be content—whatever!
- D. The school of contentment. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
  - 1. The faculty and curriculum.
    - a. Satan: thorns.
    - b. Lord: grace.
    - c. Christ: power.
  - 2. Graduation requirements.
    - a. Recognizing strength in weakness.
    - b. Acknowledging adequacy in inadequacy. 2 Corinthians 3:6

### II. Sharing: the Evidence of Contentment.

- A. Concern that grasps opportunities. v. 10
- B. Willingness that responds to troubles. v. 14
- C. Commitment that addresses human need. v. 16

### III. Blessing: the Bonus of Contentment.

- A. An eternal account credited. v. 17
- B. A pleasing sacrifice accepted. v. 18
- C. And gracious provision anticipated. v. 19

**Point to Ponder:** Do I look, sound, and act like a contented, adequate person?