

Common Unity
Standing Fast. Standing Together
Sunday, March 2, 2008

Paul concludes his letter to the church at Philippi by tying up some loose ends and continuing to encourage this church that he loved to be rooted in Christ in all they do.

It is interesting that Paul comes back to something that was mentioned in the first chapter as he concludes this letter. It is on the theme of giving. Paul expresses his thanks to the Philippian Church for giving financial gifts to him as he proclaimed the gospel of Jesus. But, he is more joyful that this sacrificial giving is demonstrating that they are growing in their faith. They are learning to be content in what they have and sharing their resources with others, even at a personal cost, trusting that God will provide for them. Join us as we study the conclusion of this incredible letter from Paul to the Church at Philippi and discover the meaning that it has for our lives in *Standing Fast, Standing Together*.

Questions

Philippians 4:10-23

Be sure to read the passage that was preached on March 2, together with your small group before you discuss the questions. Pray that God will direct your time.

1. Discuss with your group a time when you received something from someone that was totally unexpected but was very much appreciated. How did you feel? Discuss with your group a time when you felt motivated to do something for someone without looking for a thank you or praise. What did you do? How did you feel?
2. How does this fit into the scripture passage that you read together?
3. What is sacrificial giving? Discuss together what sacrificial giving looks like in our world today and share some examples with one another. Have you ever been prompted to give in a way that would have definitely cost you or your family something?
4. Do you know of anyone who has ever given up something for you? It cost them something. Discuss this with your group.
5. Are you content? Discuss in your group what you think it means to be content in our North American culture. Share experiences of any who have traveled abroad. Does contentment look different in various countries around the world? When have you felt most content? When have you been the most restless or discontent? What brings you contentment?
6. The Apostle Paul says to the Philippians that he has found the secret to being content in any and all circumstances. True contentment is only found when we are rooted in Jesus Christ and view the world through a "Jesus" perspective. What do you think of this statement? Have you found it to be true in your life?

Pray for one another at the end of your time together, that Jesus would be the source of your contentment and hope in your daily lives.