

## Philippians – Week 9 – Heavenly Minded – Bible Study Helps

Title: Heavenly Minded: Finding Contentment and Eternal Treasures in Christ

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the theme of contentment in Christ and the importance of investing in heavenly treasures. It emphasizes that true contentment comes from trusting in God's provision and focusing on eternal matters rather than earthly possessions. The sermon highlights the Apostle Paul's example of learning contentment in all circumstances and encourages believers to prioritize giving to God's work, which results in eternal rewards and God's promise to meet all their needs.

### Key Points:

- Contentment is learned through life experiences and trusting God
- Discontentment leads to covetousness, anxiety, and ingratitude
- Giving to God's work is an investment in heavenly treasures
- God promises to supply all needs for those who give faithfully
- Having a heavenly mindset leads to peace and joy in all circumstances

### Scripture Reference:

- Philippians 4:10-23

### Stories:

- The pastor's daughter's experience with her son's surgery, using it to illustrate the importance of trusting God and finding contentment in difficult circumstances.
- The story of Corrie Ten Boom, who said, "You can never learn that Christ is all you need until Christ is all you have."
- The Old Testament story of the widow whose oil was miraculously multiplied as she poured it into containers, illustrating God's provision for those who trust Him.

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## Discipleship and Small Group Guide: Heavenly Minded - Philippians 4

### Key Takeaways:

1. Contentment is learned through life experiences and trusting God.
2. Giving to God's work results in eternal rewards and heavenly treasures.
3. God promises to provide for the needs of those who faithfully give to Him.

### Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentioned that Paul learned contentment through his experiences. What challenges have you faced that have helped you grow in contentment?
2. How do you balance being content with what you have while still working towards goals or improvements in your life?
3. The sermon emphasized the idea of "heavenly treasures." How does this concept change your perspective on giving and serving in ministry?
4. Discuss the statement: "You are affecting eternity by your actions." How does this impact your daily choices and priorities?
5. The sermon highlighted the connection between giving and trusting God. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to trust God with your resources?
6. How does the promise in Philippians 4:19 ("My God shall supply all your need") encourage or challenge you in your current circumstances?

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### Practical Applications:

1. Contentment Challenge: This week, practice gratitude by writing down 3 things you're thankful for each day, focusing on what you have rather than what you lack.
2. Giving Evaluation: Prayerfully consider your current giving habits. Are there areas where God might be calling you to invest more in eternal things?
3. Thought Replacement: When you catch yourself having anxious or discontented thoughts, practice replacing them with a truth from God's Word. (You may want to memorize Philippians 4:11-13 as a group.)
4. Needs vs. Wants Assessment: Make a list of your current "needs" and "wants." Pray over this list, asking God to help you discern between the two and trust Him for true needs.
5. Gospel Sharing: Look for an opportunity this week to share the gospel or invite someone to church, remembering that this is an eternal investment.
6. Support Missions: As a group, consider ways you can support a missionary or missions project, whether through prayer, encouragement, or financial giving.

### Closing Prayer Focus:

Thank God for His provision and ask for His help in cultivating contentment, generosity, and eternal perspective in your daily lives.

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### Discipleship Questions:

How can we cultivate true contentment in our lives, regardless of our circumstances, as Paul describes in Philippians 4:11-13?

In what ways might our personal struggles and challenges be opportunities for God's strength to be made perfect in our weakness, as mentioned in 2 Corinthians 12:9?

How does the concept of 'heavenly treasures' challenge our earthly perspectives on giving and financial stewardship?

What practical steps can we take to shift our focus from earthly concerns to being more 'heavenly minded' in our daily lives?

How might viewing our giving as 'fruit credited to our heavenly account' change our attitude towards supporting missions and church work?

In what ways can we learn to trust God more fully with our needs, as promised in Philippians 4:19?

How can we balance being content with what we have while still working towards personal and spiritual growth?

What are some practical ways we can replace negative thoughts with God's truth, as suggested in Philippians 4:8?

How might our perspective on life's challenges change if we viewed them as opportunities to learn obedience and contentment, as Paul did?

In what ways can we cultivate a spirit of sacrificial giving, like the poor widow in Mark 12, in our own lives?

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A 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide

## **Day 1: Contentment in Christ**

Reading: Philippians 4:10-13

Devotional: Paul's words on contentment challenge us to find our satisfaction in Christ alone. Reflect on areas of your life where discontentment may be creeping in. How can you shift your focus to the sufficiency of Christ? Remember, true contentment isn't based on circumstances, but on our relationship with Jesus. Today, practice gratitude for what you have, and ask God to help you find joy in Him above all else.

## **Day 2: Heavenly Treasures**

Reading: Matthew 6:19-21

Devotional: Jesus teaches us to store up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. This aligns with Paul's desire for the Philippians to have fruit credited to their heavenly account. Consider your priorities and investments - are they primarily earthly or eternal? How can you begin to shift your focus towards heavenly treasures? Perhaps it's through increased giving, serving others, or sharing the gospel. Ask God to give you an eternal perspective in your daily choices.

## **Day 3: God's Promised Provision**

Reading: Philippians 4:19, Matthew 6:25-34

Devotional: God promises to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory. This doesn't mean we'll have everything we want, but that He will faithfully provide what we truly need. Reflect on times when God has provided for you unexpectedly. How can you cultivate greater trust in His provision? Challenge yourself to bring your worries to God in prayer, exchanging anxiety for faith in His care.

## **Day 4: Peace That Surpasses Understanding**

Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Devotional: Paul encourages us to rejoice always and not be anxious, promising a peace that surpasses understanding. This peace isn't dependent on circumstances but on our relationship with God. What worries are you carrying today? Practice bringing them to God in prayer with thanksgiving. Focus your thoughts on what is true, noble, and praiseworthy. Ask God to fill you with His supernatural peace as you trust in Him.

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### **Day 5: Strength in Weakness**

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Devotional: Paul learned that God's grace is sufficient and His power is perfected in our weakness. This paradox of the Christian life invites us to find strength in our vulnerabilities. Reflect on your own weaknesses or struggles. How might God be using these to draw you closer to Him or to display His power? Instead of being discouraged by your limitations, ask God to help you boast in your weaknesses, that Christ's power may rest on you.