Practicing the Walk of Faith

Philippians 4:10-23

Introduction:

I. Experiences Connected with the Walk of Faith – 4:10-13

A. Knowing How to Wait – 4:10

1. The Final Coming of the Philippians’ Gift – 4:10a

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last ﻿﻿your care for me has flourished again;”

The main purpose of the Epistle was to thank the Philippians for the gift they had sent by Epaphroditus. He stated that in chapter 1. Now he finishes with a fuller thank you. His need was great and he rejoiced greatly.

“at last” - It had been a while since he had hear from them. But, he is not scolding them, he knows the reason: Your care has “blossomed” again –like a rose in the desert.

2. The faithful character of the Philippians’ giving – 4:10b

“though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.”

They had lost track of Paul. After he left Philippi on the second journey, He visited again on the third journey. After that time they didn’t know what had happened to him.

B. Knowing How to Want – 4:11-13

1. What Paul Denied – 4:11a

“Not that I speak in regard to need,”

Paul knew that his needs would be supplied. The only question was, “from what source?”

2. What Paul Declared – 4:11b-13

a. The Serenity of Contentment – 4:11b-12

1. The apprehension of the lesson – 4:11b

“for I have learned in whatever state I am, there ﻿﻿to be content:”

Whatever Paul was doing, he was content. Later he wrote to Timothy, “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” (I Tim. 6:6)

When he was:

Preaching to a crowd – content

Leading a slave to Christ - content

Going to Jerusalem to take a generous gift - content

Preaching before a mob in Jerusalem – content

Preaching to scholars in Athens - content

Returning to a church he had planted - content

Preaching before a king – content

Paul lived above his circumstances because his circumstances were ordered by the Lord who controls all things.

2) The application of the lesson – 4:12

1. No matter why – 4:12a

“I know how to ﻿﻿be abased, and I know how to ﻿﻿abound.”

“Abased” - carries the idea of a river in the time of drought. Paul was familiar with that situation. He knew how to “run on low.” He also knew how to abound. This is the harder of the two.

When you are abased, you have no choice. When you have abundance, you have to make choices. Joseph was the classic O.T. example of going from prison to palace and back again. In that he was a picture of Jesus as Paul describes Him in Philippians 2.

b) No matter where – 4:12b

“Everywhere I have learned both to be full and to be hungry,”

Everywhere included prison in Rome, but also in Philippi, Caesarea, and Jerusalem. It also included a day and a night “in the deep” (2 Cor. 11:25). And shipwreck in the Mediterranean -- “We have an anchor”.

c) No matter what – 4:12c

“and in all things –[I have learned – both to be full and to be hungry]” “both to abound and to suffer need.”

Learned - μεμύημαι >μυέω to be initiated. As into the mysteries of Pagan religion. Paul was a card-carrying member of the “up and downer” club.

b. The Secret of Contentment – 4:13

“I can do all things ﻿﻿through (﻿)﻿ the one Who strengthens me. [Christ]

We can’t do it at all by ourselves. But, when we trust Him, he works it out for our good and His glory.

II. Exercises Connected to the Walk of Faith – 4:14-23

A. Personal Needs – 4:14-20

1. The Explanation – 4:14-16

1. Reasons for Paul’s financial need – 4:14-15a

“Nevertheless, you have done well to ﻿﻿share *with me* in my affliction. Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel,”

But they have done well to share with Paul. After all, God uses His people to be instruments of His will.

b. Relief of Paul’s Financial Needs – 4:15b-16

1. Lack of concern of other churches – 4:15b

Then – (In Greece – Acts 17-18)

“after I left ﻿﻿Macedonia, no church ﻿﻿shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving.”

Now – in Rome (Phil) the same thing has happened here in Rome.

Where are the other churches Paul planted?

Where is Antioch in Syria? - They sent him out to the regions beyond.

Is that the end of their concern?

Where are the churches in Galatia? - They received him as an “angel of light”

They would have “plucked their own eyes” and given them to Paul. (Gal.4:14-15)

Where were the churches right there in Rome? - Look at the long list of individuals in Romans 16. Paul is right on their doorstep!

2) Loving concern of their church – 16

Then (in Greece) - but you alone; “for even in ﻿﻿Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs.”

Note: Paul was in Thessalonica about 3 weeks (Acts 17) Silas and Timothy stayed a little longer.

In Acts 18:2-5 Paul had gone ahead to Corinth

“And he found a Jew named ﻿﻿Aquila, a native of ﻿﻿Pontus, having recently come from ﻿﻿Italy with his wife ﻿﻿Priscilla, He came to them, and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and ﻿﻿they were working [week days,] for by trade they were tent-makers. And he was reasoning ﻿﻿in the synagogue every ﻿﻿Sabbath and trying to persuade ﻿﻿Jews and Greeks. But when ﻿﻿Silas and Timothy ﻿﻿came down from ﻿﻿Macedonia, Paul *began* devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly ﻿﻿testifying to the Jews that ﻿﻿Jesus was the ﻿﻿Christ.”

Now - (AGAIN) v.14 “There you go again!” You have done well to share in my affliction.

2. Exhortation – 4:17

a. I seek no profit for myself – 4:17a

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“Not that I seek the gift itself”

Paul was not trying to get money: To expand his ranch in Texas; to add a room to his $10 million mansion; to build a replica of the Whitehouse for an office in TX; to build a 9 million church in Orlando.

b. I seek profit for you – 4:17b

“but I seek for the ﻿﻿profit which increases to your account.”

His concern was the expansion of their eternal account. Someone said, “If you want to have treasure in heaven, you’d better give some money to someone who is going there.”

3. Exultation – 4:18

1. Paul’s delight in their gift – 4:18a

“But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am ﻿﻿amply supplied, having received from ﻿﻿Epaphroditus ﻿﻿what you have sent,”

Paul’s need has been supplied through them again.

1. Paul’s description of their gift – 4:18b

“a fragrant aroma, (good) an acceptable sacrifice, (acceptable) well-pleasing to God. (perfect) [See Rom. 12.1-2].

4. Expectation – 4:19-20

1. Temporal Gain – 4:19

“And my God ﻿﻿shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

This verse has a context. Because they had shared with Paul by God’s direction, God will now supply their need. Notice that it is not ( “out of” His riches, but ( “according to”

1. Eternal Gain – 4:20

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“Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.”

B. Parting notes – 4:21-23

1. Greetings – 4:21-22

a. From The Apostle – 4:21a

“Greet every saint in Christ Jesus”

1. The ones he remembered.

Lydia, the girl who told fortunes, the Jailor and his family.

1. The ones who had come later.

Epaphroditus had described them to him.

b. From the Assembly – 4:21b-22

1. Paul’s friends

“The brethren ﻿﻿who are with me greet you.”

"Probably Tychicus, of the Ephesians, Timothy and Epaphroditus, of the Philippians; possibly, Onesimus, who, thief that he had been, was now among the blessed body of "brethren"; Aristarchus, "my fellow prisoner", Mark, Jesus Justus, Epaphras, and Dr. Luke, of the Colossians.

2) From the fellowship –

1. From the church in Caesar’s Rome

“All the saints greet you,”

Paul had gone into the city that was ruled by a man who was worshipped as God by the people of the Empire. He won converts to Jesus right under his nose.

1. From the church in Caesar’s Home

“but especially those who are of Caesar’s household.”

Then he won many converts right in his palace. It could have included his blood-relatives.

2. Grace – 4:23

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with ﻿﻿you all. Amen.”

Paul probably took the pen from his “secretary who wrote the letter and finished it by writing the last verse. That was his custom (2 Thess. 3:17)

There is grace in the second verse of the epistle. And grace in the last verse of the epistle.