

16 Sermon Outlines from Philippians

The Joy of Christian Fellowship



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Experiencing Joyous Christian Fellowship (Philippians 1:1-11)

Fellowship: What is fellowship or what constitutes fellowship? The word fellowship seems to mean many things to many different people. Often, we think of fellowship as being present at a meeting, or getting together for a cup of coffee or tea or even enjoying a game of golf with a friend.

But does this constitute Christian fellowship? In some ways, it does; but in other ways, it doesn't. Let me explain! Christian fellowship is really much deeper than sharing coffee or having a game of golf. After all, Christian fellowship involves more than the physical. It must involve the spiritual. In that sense, our Christian fellowship is sourced in our relationship with Jesus Christ and our ability to draw attention to it. In this way, we express our spirituality in our joyous Christian fellowship. Paul showed how this is possible in the first chapter of Philippians. In this passage, Paul uses three expressions that lead to joyful Christian fellowship. They are:

1. I have you in my thoughts (1:3-4) Two reasons:
 - A. They were brothers and sisters in the Lord (1:1-2)
 - B. They were partners in the gospel (1:5-6)
2. I have you in my heart (1:7a) Two reasons:
 - A. His deep affection for them was Christ inspired (1:8)
 - B. His partnership with them was mutual (1:7b)
3. I have you in my prayers (1:9a) Four requests:
 - A. They would increase in love (1:9b)
 - B. They would increase in discernment (1:10a)
 - C. They would increase in sincerity (1:10b)
 - D. They would increase in fruitfulness (1:11)

We can experience joyful Christian fellowship by having others in our thoughts, our hearts and prayers. The results of joyful Christian fellowship are that the church grows and the gospel is shared. May God encourage us to be participants of the gospel!

Sharing the Gospel With Joy (Philippians 1:12-18)

When we read the story of the apostle Paul, we soon realised that he did not have the most advantageous circumstances in which to minister. In fact, he faced opposition continually; and yet, he did not lose his enthusiasm for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

So often, we allow our circumstances, detractors and feelings to crush our enthusiasm to be involved in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As one writer said, "Perhaps the greatest damage done by detractors is not their direct opposition. It's more intangible. They destroy enthusiasm, the morale so necessary for church health and growth." If we have an unhealthy focus on our circumstances, our detractors and our feelings, then the devil has won and the ministry of the gospel has lost. In this passage, we can learn three lessons for sharing the gospel with joy. They are:

1. We must look beyond our circumstances (1:12) Two results:
 - A. Paul was able to use his situation to share with others (1:13)
 - B. Paul was able to use his situation to encourage others (1:14)
2. We must look beyond our detractors (1:15-17) Two types:
 - A. There will be always detractors (1:15a, 16)
 - B. There will be also the faithful (1:15b, 17)
3. We must look beyond our feelings (1:18) Two directives:
 - A. Paul did not allow his feelings to over ride the gospel (1:18a)
 - B. Paul's prime directive was to see the gospel preached (1:18b)

The means by which we can share the gospel with joy is by looking beyond our circumstances, by looking beyond our detractors and by looking beyond our feelings. If we do this, then we will see God at work.

The Power and Potency of a Changed Life (Philippians 1:19-26)

Sometimes, I believe we underestimate the power and potency of a changed life. In 1979, Leslie Stodel became a Christian and modelled her faith in such a way that it influenced her atheistic husband Lee to begin his own search for God. Within two years, he became a Christian. However, the story did not finish there.

The change in his life also influenced their 5-year-old daughter Alison, who said, "Mommy, I want God to do for me what He's done for Daddy." In short, a changed life has tremendous power and potency. The old adage, "Don't tell me; show me" stands true, even today. In that sense, our greatest witness for Christ may not be the things we say, but more so the things we do. Let's not underestimate the power and potency of a changed life.

This passage draws three pictures of Paul's changed life and his influence for the kingdom of God. These pictures are:

1. Christ being magnified in his body (1:19-20)
 - A. This began at Paul's conversion (Acts 9)
 - B. This continued to Paul's present circumstances (1:19-20)
2. Christ being magnified in his life (1:21) Two focal points:
 - A. Christ was the focus of his actions (1:21a)
 - B. Christ was the focus of his future (1:21b)
3. Christ was magnified in his ministry (1:22-26) Two ways:
 - A. Paul saw life as an opportunity to share the gospel (1:22-24)
 - B. Paul also saw life as an opportunity to nurture others in the faith (1:25-26)

The results of Paul's changed life are that Christ was magnified in his body, in his life and in his ministry. Yes, Paul's life and ministry truly magnified Christ in every way. Remember, our greatest witness for Christ may not be the things we say, but more so the things we do. Don't forget the power of a changed life.

Living as Citizens of God's Kingdom (Philippians 1:27-30)

Who are you when nobody is watching? What kind of parent? What kind of spouse? What kind of employee? What kind of Christian are you when you think no one is looking? We must be careful that our public confession matches our private conduct. After all, people won't buy what we confess in public if we are not conducting ourselves with integrity in private. Therefore, if we confess to be Christians, then we should live as citizens of God's Kingdom.

The key to living as citizens of God's Kingdom is the person of Jesus Christ. So often we think we have to do something for God, but in reality only Jesus Christ can change our lives. As the apostle Paul said, "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Phil 2:13)! There are four essentials for living as citizens of God's kingdom. They are:

1. Acting consistently in a Christlike manner (1:27a)
2. Standing firm in harmony (1:27b)
3. Striving together for the faith of the gospel (1:27c)
4. Being courageous in face of opposition (1:28a) Three reasons:
 - A. It is a sign of belonging to God (1:28b)
 - B. It is a privilege granted only to Christians (1:29)
 - C. It is a situation we all bear (1:30)

The means by which we can live as citizens of God's kingdom are by acting consistently in a Christlike manner, by standing firm in harmony, by striving together for the faith of the gospel and by being courageous in face of opposition. Remember, the key to living as citizens of God's Kingdom is the person of Jesus Christ. It is impossible to live the Christian life without Jesus Christ.

Dwelling Together In Harmony (Philippians 2:1-4)

We feel many things, but delight is the most enjoyable of them all. It is a very satisfying feeling. The dictionary defined “delight” as a sense of great pleasure, a sense of great joy. King David used this expression to describe God’s people dwelling together in unity. David said, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for the brethren to dwell together in unity” (Psalm 133:1).

King David paints a picture of immense delight and pleasure of God’s people dwelling together in unity. In fact, King David likened the unity of God’s people to the fragrant perfume that was used in anointing Aaron as priest. Also, King David likened the unity of God’s people to that of the refreshing dew of Mount Hermon. What a wonderful picture King David drew of God’s people dwelling together in unity! In this passage, the apostle Paul presented three principles for Christians to dwell together in harmony. They are:

1. Having a unity of focus (2:1) Four focal points:
 - A. Encouragement in Christ (2:1a)
 - B. Comfort in God’s love (2:1b)
 - C. Fellowship in the Spirit (2:1c)
 - D. Compassion & mercy in Christianity (2:1d)
2. Having a unity of thought (2:2) Three standards:
 - A. Having the same mind (2:2a)
 - B. Having the same love (2:2b)
 - C. Having the same goal (2:2c)
3. Having a unity of purpose (2:3-4) Two statements:
 - A. Looking beyond ourselves (2:3a, 4a)
 - B. Looking to encourage others (2:3b, 4b)

The means by which Christians can dwell together in harmony are by having a unity of focus, by having a unity of thought and by having a unity of purpose. After all, not only will we be blessed, but also we will be a blessing to others.

Serving the Lord Together in Harmony (Philippians 2:5-11)

It has been said that once when Muhammed Ali was on a plane that was about to embark, a Flight Attendant reminded him to fasten his seat belt. Ali replied, “Superman don’t need no seat belt.” The Flight Attendant snapped back, “Superman don’t need no airplane either.” In response, Ali fastened his belt.

Man in his sinful state has this same attitude. Who needs God when I can control my own life? In many ways, we have come to expect this attitude from people who reject God; who seek to serve and exalt themselves. However, Christians should have a totally different attitude toward self and others. How we see ourselves and how we respond to others should reflect a Christlike attitude. For the apostle Paul said, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). After all, if we are going to serve the Lord in harmony, then we need to have a Christ-like attitude. Paul presented three attitudes for serving the Lord together in harmony. They are:

1. Selflessness (2:6-7) Two statements:
 - A. Christ gave Himself without reservation (2:6-7a)
 - B. Christ gave Himself willingly (2:7)
2. Humility (2:8) Two facts:
 - A. Humility leads to obedience (2:8a)
 - B. Humility led to the cross (2:8b)
3. Investment (2:9-11) Two-fold return:
 - A. God exalted Christ (2:9a)
 - B. God gave Christ the name which is above every name (2:9b-11)

The means by which Christians can serve the Lord together in harmony are by having an attitude of selflessness, humility, and investment. Christian thinking should cause us to give, not get; to let go rather than to grasp selfishly because God will reward us in due time.

Moving Forward in the Lord (Philippians 2:12-18)

Someone wrote: “Life’s fleeting day will soon be gone and we will pass away; so teach us, Lord, to know Your will that we may choose Your way.” Regardless of who we are, life goes on. After all, life does not stop for anyone. In fact, it is impossible to turn back the clock because every day brings forth a new day. In other words, life goes on regardless.

In the same way, our Christian life must go on. The Scriptures encourage us to press on in the Lord, to move forward in the Lord. Why? Because our Christian life will not stand still. We cannot live the Christian life in limbo, either we go forward or we go backwards.

The Christian life is a progressive life because every day brings forth a new day, a new opportunity, a new situation or a new trial. If we are going to meet these challenges victoriously, then we need to move forward in the Lord. There are three applications for moving forward in the Lord. They are:

1. Putting our faith into practice (2:12-13) Three ways:
 - A. We need to have a right attitude toward God (2:12b)
 - B. We need to obey God’s instruction (2:12a)
 - C. We need to seek God’s enabling (2:13)
2. Putting our faith into view (2:14-16) Three ways:
 - A. We need to do all things with a joyful spirit (2:14)
 - B. We need to reflect our faith in Jesus (2:15)
 - C. We need to hold fast to the message that brings life (2:16)
3. Putting our faith in the Lord regardless of the cost (2:17-18) Two reasons:
 - A. Paul counted the cost and rejoiced (2:17)
 - B. We need to count the cost and rejoice (2:18)

We can move forward in the Lord by putting our faith into practice, our faith into view and our faith in the Lord regardless of the cost. If we follow these three applications in life, then we will grow in faith and we will meet the challenges of life victoriously.

Caring for One Another in the Lord
(Philippians 2:19-24)

From 1986 to 1990, Frank Reed was held hostage in a Lebanon cell. For months at a time, Reed was blindfolded, living in complete darkness or chained to a wall and kept in absolute silence. On one occasion, he was moved to another room, and, although blindfolded, he could sense others in the room. Yet it was three weeks before he dared peek out to discover he was chained next to Terry Anderson and Yom Sutherland.

Although he was beaten, made ill, and tormented, Reed felt most the lack of anyone caring. He said in an interview with Time, “Nothing I did mattered to anyone. I began to realize how withering it is to exist with not a single expression of caring around [me]. . . .I learned one overriding fact; caring is a powerful force. If no one cares, you are truly alone.”

This story tells us that we need each other because if no one cares, then we are truly alone. However, if someone cares, then we are not alone. We may not always realize it but we do need each other. In short, we need to learn to care for one another in the Lord. There are three necessities for caring for one another in the Lord. They are:

1. An unselfish spirit (2:19) Two statements:
 - A. An unselfish spirit is sourced in Jesus Christ (2:19a)
 - B. An unselfish spirit is an expressive spirit (2:19b)
2. A genuine concern for others (2:20-21) Two statements:
 - A. Timothy sincerely cared for the welfare of others (2:20)
 - B. Timothy genuinely desired the things of the Lord (2:21)
3. A servant’s heart (2:22-24) Two statements:
 - A. Timothy was a faithful servant (2:22)
 - B. Timothy was a willing servant (2:23-24)

We can learn to care for one another in the Lord by nurturing an unselfish spirit, a genuine interest in others and a servant’s heart. In short, if no one cares, then we are truly alone.

Ministering to one another in the Lord
(Philippians 2:25-30)

The Times-Reporter of New Philadelphia, Ohio, reported in September 1985 a celebration at a New Orleans municipal pool. The party around the pool was held to celebrate the first summer in memory without a drowning at any New Orleans city pool. In honour of the occasion, two hundred people gathered, including one hundred certified lifeguards.

As the party was breaking up and the four lifeguards on duty began to clear the pool, they found a fully dressed body in the deep end. They tried to revive Jerome Moody, thirty-one, but it was too late. He had drowned surrounded by lifeguards celebrating their successful season.

I wonder how many visitors and strangers are among us drowning in loneliness, hurt, and doubt, while we, who could help them, don't realise it. We Christians have reason to celebrate, but our mission, as the old hymn says, is to "rescue the perishing." And often they are right next to us. In that sense, we are called to minister to one another in the Lord. There are three qualities for ministering to one another in the Lord. They are:

1. Involvement (2:25) Three statements:
 - A. Involvement begins with fellowship (2:25)
 - B. Involvement continues with ministry (2:25)
 - C. Involvement persists with a battle (2:25)
2. Sensitivity (2:26-28) Two statements:
 - A. Sensitivity sees the needs of others
 - B. Sensitivity has no animosity
3. Sacrifice (2:29-30) Two results:
 - A. They were willing to be involved
 - B. They were willing to go the extra mile (2:30)

The means by which Christians can minister to one another in the Lord are by being involved, by being sensitive and by having a sacrificial spirit. Remember, we cannot minister to one another in isolation. Therefore, we need to be involved.

Living Triumphant In The Lord (Philippians 3:1-3)

In 2 Chronicles 32, there are some great words of encouragement. However, to grasp their significance, we need to understand the context in which they were expressed. Hezekiah, King of Judah, had broken a treaty which existed between Judah and Assyria. Sennacherib, King of Assyria, had decided to invade Judah and punish Hezekiah.

When Hezekiah heard of Sennacherib's invasion, he went into action to defend Jerusalem. But it would take more than Judah's might to save the city from the onslaught of the powerful armies of Sennacherib. So Hezekiah encouraged the people by declaring that "with him (ie., Sennacherib) is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles."

Likewise, we have the Lord to help us and to fight our battles. Therefore, these words should encourage us to live triumphantly in the Lord. In Philippians 3:1-3, Paul provided three additional keys for living triumphantly in the Lord. They are:

1. Rejoice in the Lord (3:1a) Two statements:
 - A. True joy is found in the Lord (3:1a)
 - B. True joy is focused on the Lord (3:1a)
2. Recognise false teachers (3:1a-2) Three descriptions:
 - A. They are dangerous (3:2a)
 - B. They are deceptive (3:2b)
 - C. They are deviable (3:2c)
3. Realize our true standing in Christ (3:3) Three statements:
 - A. We worship God in the Spirit of God (3:3a)
 - B. We glory in Christ alone (3:3b)
 - C. We have no confidence in the flesh (3:3c)

The means by which we can live triumphantly in the Lord Jesus Christ are by rejoicing in the Lord, by recognising false teachings and by realizing our true standing in Christ. Our hope and victory is in the Lord alone! May God impress this truth upon our hearts today!

Knowing the Righteousness of God (Philippians 3:4-11)

What is important in your life? In many ways, whatever you view as important in your life will ultimately shape your life and destiny. Of course, this was the same for the apostle Paul. Paul's life and destiny was shaped when he discovered God's righteousness through faith in Christ.

When the apostle Paul realized that his own righteousness was rubbish before God, he renounced it and turned to God through faith in Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:9). We too must realize that we cannot come to God in our own righteousness, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. As we examine this subject today, may God impress upon our hearts the importance of experiencing God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ! In this passage, Paul gave three steps for knowing the righteousness of God. They are:

1. Realize that it is not found in self-righteousness (3:4-8a) Two statements:
 - A. Paul recalled all his self-righteousness (3:4-6)
 - B. Paul renounced all his self-righteousness (3:7-8a)
2. Realize that it is found through faith in Christ (3:8b-9) Two reasons:
 - A. The righteousness of God can only be found in Christ (2 Cor 5:21)
 - B. The righteousness of God can only be found through faith in Christ (3:9b)
3. Realize that it is expressed through faith in Christ (3:10-11) Four encouragements:
 - A. Know Christ better (3:10a)
 - B. Know the power of the Christ-life (3:10b)
 - C. Know the fellowship of Christ's suffering (3:10c)
 - D. Know the final goal (3:10d-11)

The means by which we can know the righteousness of God are by realizing that it is not found through self-efforts but it is found and expressed through faith in Christ.

Pressing Toward the Goal With Maximum Effort

(Philippians 3:12-16)

In many ways, we live in a very sporty nation. A nation that loves to see its sportsmen and women achieve at the highest level. In similar ways, the apostle Paul must have been a sporty person because he so often used athletic analogies, or athletic metaphors to illustrate spiritual truth. One of his athletic analogies was that of a runner, running a race. Several times in his writings Paul referred to this running metaphor, this picture of maximum effort as one strives toward the finish line.

In some ways, the Christian life is a race and the Christian is a runner--a runner pressing toward the goal with great effort and enthusiasm. Paul said, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14). In other words, Paul lived the Christian life with purpose, with enthusiasm, looking unto Jesus--the author and finisher of his faith--knowing that one day he would finish the race and collect the prize. In the same way, Paul encouraged his readers to press toward the goal, to run the race set before them with maximum effort. Paul gave three reasons why we should press toward the goal. They are:

1. Christianity is a growing process (3:12) Two statements:
 - A. In this life, we are not made perfect (3:12a)
 - B. In this life, we must press toward the goal (3:12b)
2. Christianity is striving process (3:13-14) Three statements:
 - A. We need to have a single focus (3:13a, 14)
 - B. We need to forget the past (3:13b)
 - C. We need to look ahead (3:13c)
3. Christianity is a maturing process (3:15-16) Two statements:
 - A. We need to have the right attitude (3:15)
 - B. We need to have a consistent attitude (3:16)

The reasons we can press toward the goal with maximum effort are because the Christian life is a growing, striving and maturing process. Are you striving, growing, and maturing in your Christian walk?

Living a Vibrant Christian Life (Philippians 3:17-21)

When Paul met Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, his life was radically changed (Acts 26:16). When Isaiah saw the glory and majesty of God, his life took a new direction (Isa. 6:1-9). When Peter saw the awesomeness of Christ, his life also took a new direction (Lk. 5:8). What changed the lives of these men so dramatically? Well, it was their encounter with the Lord. In other words, the Lord opened their eyes to see life from God's perspective. When these men saw life from God's perspective, they acknowledged their sinfulness and their need of God's grace.

When these men met the Lord, their lives wonderfully changed; however, their lives didn't finish there. These men went on to live vibrant Christian lives. Paul became the apostle to the Gentiles. Isaiah proclaimed the Word of God to Israel. Peter became an evangelist. Nevertheless, these men had their struggles, and yet they still lived vibrant Christian lives--lives that radiated the love of God. In the above passage, Paul gave three principles for living a vibrant Christian life. They are:

1. Following Paul's example (3:17) Two reasons:
 - A. Paul pursued Christ with purpose and enthusiasm (3:17a)
 - B. Paul with others lived exemplary lives (3:17b)
2. Avoiding many extremes (3:18-19) Two extremes:
 - A. Those who live as enemies of the cross (3:18)
 - B. Those who live for here and now (3:19)
3. Realizing our heavenly focus (3:20-21) Two focuses:
 - A. We are heavenly citizens (3:20)
 - B. We are heavenly bound (3:21)

The means by which we can live vibrant Christian lives are by following Paul's example, by avoiding many extremes and by realizing our future destiny. As Paul said to the Colossians, "*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth*" (Col. 3:2)!

Seeking Spiritual Stability in the Lord (Part 1)

(Philippians 4:1-7)

At the swimming world championships, one man stood out, Ian Thorpe. In fact, Ian Thorpe (I believe?) cemented his name in history for winning six gold medals at a world championship. What a performance! What an athlete! And yet, Thorpe seems to have his feet firmly on the ground. Furthermore, it seems that he has not allowed all the attention to go to his head.

An interviewer asked him, “When you face the water, are you thinking of getting the record?” Thorpe quietly replied, “No, I’m thinking of doing the best I can, and that’s what everybody should do, whatever level they are at.” What a statement! You know, Thorpe could have blown his own trumpet, but instead he encouraged others to do the best they could. These types of statements have made Ian Thorpe a great ambassador for the sport of swimming.

In the same way, the apostle Paul was a great ambassador for the Christian faith. Paul’s desire was never to elevate him-self but only to encourage others to seek and know the Lord Jesus Christ in their daily lives. In Phil. 4:1-7, Paul encouraged four attitudes that would lead to spiritual stability in the Lord. They are:

1. Unity in the Lord (4:1-3) Two reasons:
 - A. Unity is encouraged in the local church (4:2)
 - B. Unity is promoted in the local church (4:3)
2. Joyfulness in the Lord (4:4)
3. Gentleness in the Lord (4:5)
4. Prayerfulness in the Lord (4:6-7) Two reasons:
 - A. Prayer relieves anxiety (4:6)
 - B. Prayer brings peace (4:7)

The means by which we can become spiritually stable in the Lord are by being united, joyful, gentle and prayerful in the Lord. May God challenge each one of us in these areas today!

Seeking Spiritual Stability in the Lord (Part 2)

(Philippians 4:8-9)

The miracle of life is that from conception a child begins to form and grow in the mother's womb. Moreover, after the child is born, he/she continues this growing process. So, we can conclude that physical life is all about growing and maturing. And yet, in many ways, our spiritual life is the same. When we are born into the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:3), we begin a growing and maturing process (Colossians 2:6-7).

In the physical realm, many of us are careful about what we eat because we know that food can affect our bodies in different ways. If we eat junk food, then we pay the consequences. If we eat healthy food, then we usually are healthy and active. However, in the spiritual realm, are we as careful when it comes to what we fill our minds? Too often, we fill our minds with unhealthy things. If this is the case, then we will reap the consequences. At the same time, if we feed our minds with healthy things, then we will grow spiritually stable.

In Philippians 4:8-9, Paul encouraged his readers to seek spiritual stability by following three directives. They are:

1. We need to think the right things (4:8b) Why is our thinking important for spiritual stability? Two reasons:
 - A. As Christians, we have a new perspective toward God (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - B. As Christians, we are the product of our thinking (4:8a)
2. We need to practice the right things (4:9a) How can we live our lives so that it brings spiritual stability? Two ways:
 - A. We need to put God's word into practice (4:9a)
 - B. We need to follow godly examples (4:9a)
3. We need to have the right attitude (4:9b)

The means by which we can seek spiritual stability in the Lord are by thinking the right things, by practicing the right things and by having the right attitude.

Finding Contentment in the Lord

(Philippians 4:10-23)

Fanny Crosby, the great writer of gospel songs, was blinded when only six weeks old by a country doctor who thought he was treating her with eye-drops. Yet her indomitable (unyielding) attitude soon manifested itself. At age eight, she wrote this little poem: *"Oh, what a happy child I am, Although I cannot see! I am resolved that in this world Contented I will be."*

When we examine the life of Fanny Crosby, we will find that she found her contentment and satisfaction in the Lord. In fact, her debilitating circumstances encouraged her to find contentment in the Lord. When Christians find satisfaction and contentment in the Lord, they will be content with whatever they have (Heb. 13:5), they will be content with food and clothing (1 Tim. 6:8), they will be content with their wages (Lk. 3:14), and they will be content because they will know God's presence and provision (Phil. 4:10-12).

In Philippians 4:10-20, we discover four principles for finding contentment in the Lord. They involved:

1. Being confident in God's providential care (4:10)
2. Being impartial to circumstances (4:11-12)
3. Being strong in the resources of the Lord (4:13)
4. Being interested in the well-being of others (4:14-20). Four areas of interest.
 - A. Paul was interested in their present faithfulness (4:14)
 - B. Paul was interested in their past faithfulness (4:15-16)
 - C. Paul was interested in their spiritual well-being (4:17-18)
 - D. Paul was interested in their physical well-being (4:19-20)

The means by which we can find contentment in the Lord are by being confident in God's providential care, by being impartial to circumstances, by being strong in the resources of the Lord and by being interested in the well-being of others. May God teach us to express our contentment in the Lord in the way we live and the way we give!