

Slide 1

“My God Will Supply All Your Needs . . .”

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-14, 19

Introduction

1. These last two weeks have been a blurr.
2. The flood which swept through our town and outlying areas resulted in the death of 19 precious souls and the destruction or severe damage of numerous homes and businesses.
3. The landscape around us is rapidly changing as many houses which were damaged beyond repair have been torn down and the debris carried away.
4. More and more we are seeing empty spaces where houses once stood.
5. Many of our neighbors no longer have a house to go home to, nor a vehicle to drive them there.
6. Those of us who were not affected to this extent grieve and hurt for those who have lost so much.
7. However, in the midst of all this devastation there has been a bright ray of sunshine — it is God’s hand of grace.
7. I have heard various individuals speak about the “what ifs”:
 - a. What if this had happened on a weekday?
 - b. What if the schools had been in secession?
 - b. What if people had been driving to work and in their businesses?
 - But the “what ifs” didn’t happen.
8. I believe that God protected us from what could have been an even greater devastation — all three of the floods we have had in the last 11 years happened on a Saturday.
9. You and I serve a great God.

- a. While homes and possessions have been lost, lives have been spared.
 - b. While those 19 precious souls are no longer among us, many more were miraculously spared.
10. How do we, as Christians in this community, respond to all of this?
11. I hope to try and answer that question this morning by directing your minds to one of the most positive letters in all of the New Testament.
12. It is the letter written by Paul to the Christians in Philippi, a congregation he and Silas helped to establish on their second missionary journey (Acts 16:11-40).
13. In his introduction to the letter Paul wrote:
- “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:3–6)
14. Nine times in the letter, Paul uses the word “rejoice.” I want to draw your mind to three of these:
- a. In 3:1, he wrote, “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.”
 - b. In 4:4, he again encouraged them, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”
15. As you hear these two statements, it is easy to think that Paul is writing from a comfortable place in which he is resting from a recent missionary journey.
16. Instead, Paul wrote this letter from a Roman prison.
- a. Twice, in chapter one (vv. 7, 17) he spoke of his “imprisonment.”
 - b. Yet, nine times in this letter, he speaks of his and our rejoicing.
17. The last time he does so is Philippians 4:10, which serves as the beginning of our reading today. (Read Philippians 4:10-14)

Slide 2

I. Concern For One Another Is At The Heart of Who We Are

A. GOD HAS PLACED BEFORE US AN OPPORTUNITY

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity” (Philippians 4:10).

1. When Paul said that the Philippians had “revived” their “concern” for him, he used a word which is found only here in the New Testament.
2. It means to “blossom” or “bloom again” like flowers in the spring.
3. It wasn’t that they were concerned before, but that they “lacked the opportunity.”
4. Epaphroditus return to them from Rome, gave them the opportunity to send him back to Paul with a generous gift.
5. In his letter to the Galatian Christians, Paul wrote in Galatians 6:10, “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” (Galatians 6:10, NASB95)
6. For almost a year now, we have examined God’s Word to learn what it means to be “the hands and feet of Jesus.”
7. God has now allowed an opportunity to be placed before us — our friends and neighbors and especially some of our brothers and sisters in Christ are in need.
8. Let us “revive” our concern and see to their need.

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B. WE WILL DO WELL IF WE SHARE WITH THEM IN THEIR AFFLICTION

“Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction” (Philippians 4:14).

1. As I said earlier, there are those who no longer have homes to go back to,

or vehicles to drive.

2. Many were fortunate to escape with the clothes on their back and their loved ones at their side.
3. Some were able to go back after the waters receded and collect what little remained in their houses.
4. Those of us who were not affected now have the opportunity to share with them in their affliction.
5. Over the last two weeks people have come from near and far to share their abundance with those who are now lacking.
6. Our building and our parking lot are filled with the provisions we have received.
7. Meals have been consistently prepared since the day of the flood either by our members or other congregations to feed the displaced and those working to help in the recovery.
8. Clothing and other essentials have been freely given away.
9. All of this is not an attempt to say, "look who we are," but rather, "here is what our Lord has provided us in order to help you."
10. Let's do all we can to be faithful stewards.

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II. Christ-Centered Contentment

A. IT IS A LEARNED BEHAVIOR

"Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need." (Philippians 4:11-12, NASB95)

1. Twice Paul says "I have learned:"
 - a. "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am" (v. 11).

- b. “I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need” (v. 12).
2. The secret of contentment is not normally learned when we are well-off or when we find ourselves deprived, but when we are exposed to both circumstances.
3. There are some here today who come from a well-to-do background.
 - a. You have never lacked for anything.
 - b. You have never had anything you valued taken from you.
4. The question you must answer is would you be comfortable and content if you were suddenly forced to live in poverty?
5. There are probably others who have come from a really poor background.
6. Perhaps you have learned to handle the uncertainty and depravity in your life in godly ways.
7. Would you be content if you suddenly became wealthy or would it instantly corrupt you?
8. Paul is content in both circumstances because his contentment is totally independent of his circumstances.
9. His contentment is focused on all he enjoys in Christ.
10. He has learned, through the good experiences and the hard experiences in his life, a relaxed contentment whatever his circumstances.
11. What makes such contentment possible?

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B. OUR STRENGTH IN ALL OF THIS COMES FROM OUR LORD

“I can do all things through Him (Christ) who strengthens me”
(Philippians 4:13).

1. Paul knew that whatever might come his way, he had the strength to meet it.
2. Whether he was full or hungry, blessed with abundance or suffering need, Christ was the one who gave Him the strength to handle either in a positive

way.

3. Only Christ can provide us the strength and the resolution to live above changing, difficult circumstances in our lives.
4. When you and I can live above our circumstances, totally content in Christ, then we can faithfully maintain our Christian walk.
5. Take the time to learn the secret of contentment.

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[I would like to leave you with one last thought . . .]

III. We Are All Debtors

A. WE ARE INDEBTED TO OUR BRETHREN & TO OUR NEIGHBORS

1. No doubt there are some alive today, either here in this building or watching virtually because someone reached out and lifted you from the water. You are a debtor to them.
2. Everything you see inside and outside this building . . .
 - a. Food, water, clothing, cleaning supplies, personal items, the shelving and storage units, the showers and bath facilities
 - b. Monies given to help in recovery and restoration. . . all came to us from someone beside ourselves.
3. Take the time to say thank you.

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B. WE ARE INDEBTED TO OUR GOD

1. James wrote that “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” (James 1:17, NASB95)
2. In 2 Corinthians 9:8, Paul said that “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have abundance for every good deed.”

3. Some 400 years before Jesus walked on this earth, the prophet Malachi accused many of the Jews of robbing God by not paying their full tithes.
4. He then challenged them to test God.
5. He told them that if they would bring in the whole tithe, God would “open the windows of heaven and pour out for [them] a blessing until it [overflowed]” (Malachi 3:10).
6. Over these last two weeks here, we have seen that happen.
7. God has opened the windows of heaven — we have been blessed until it has overflowed.
8. You and I are here today to say “Thank you.”

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C. WE ARE INDEBTED TO OUR LORD

1. Finally, we are indebted to our Lord, the one whom Paul calls God’s “incredible gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15).
2. There is a hymn we sometimes sing which includes these words:

**He paid a debt He did not owe,
I owed a debt I could not pay.
I needed someone to wash my sins away.
And now I sing a brand new song, “Amazing Grace”
Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay.**

**He paid that debt at Calvary,
He cleansed my soul and set me free,
I’m glad that Jesus did all my sins erase;
I now can sing a brand new song, “Amazing Grace”**

3. You and I who are Christians had a sin debt which it was impossible for us to pay, but Jesus paid it through His death on the Cross.
4. Again, you and I use this opportunity in worship to say, “Thank you.”

Conclusion

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1. There is one last verse I would like to which I would like to draw your attention — it is verse 19 here in Philippians 4.
2. There Paul writes, “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19, NASB95).
3. In His sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on” (Matthew 6:25).
4. He reassured His listeners even as He reassures us today, “your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things” (Matthew 6:32).
5. Instead, we should seek first God’s “kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to [us]” (Matthew 6:33).
6. Do you trust God to take care of your needs? If not, don’t you think it is time to start?

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7. The last verse of the song I shared a moment ago has these words:

**One day He’s coming back for me to live with him eternally
Won’t it be glory to see Him on that day?
I than will sing a brand new song, “Amazing Grace.”
Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay.**

8. Are you ready for that day?