

PHILIPPIANS STUDY GUIDE

Assignment... read Philippians **Chapter 4: 10-13**. As he winds down his letter, he acknowledges the financial gift that his friends have sent to him. He takes care not to be misunderstood. Notice the issue of "**sharing**" which Paul first raised in chapter one. Other Epistles confirm that Philippi was the only church from which Paul was willing to receive regular assistance.

A Can-Do Attitude... stuck in prison, with no hope of being released, and yet Paul remains hopeful. It is a great reminder that attitudes are more important than facts. He sums up his attitude

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH

There is a difference between the 2 words, "**can't**" and "**won't**" Many people are tempted to let **THEIR CAN'TS** get the final word. The word "**can't**" was not in Paul's vocabulary. **Can't or won't: which way do you live?**

His Secret was no secret... rejected at every turn, he strived to **DO WHAT HE COULD**, and not to dwell on **WHAT HE COULDN'T DO**. He writes

In all circumstances, I've learned the secret: I can do all things through him who gives me strength

As Paul **counted his blessings**, he **listed nothing** that could be **purchased, or possessed**. His **secret was no secret: Jesus**. Christ was his source, the **one who satisfied** his every need, never let him down.

Being Content... Paul doesn't own a thing. He has no money, no community of friends near, no prospects for a brighter future. Yet his mind isn't set on **WHAT HE LACKS** but **WHAT HE HAS**. His **contentment**

had nothing to do with his **living conditions, physical comfort, friends,** even his **ability to control** his life. God created us to **be content with some things** and **discontent with other things**. We get them **confused**. We focus **on externals**. It is **right to be content with what we have** but never content **with what we are**. In areas that **require constant growth-character, spiritual maturity, the ability to love**-we are content with **less than our best**.