**The Study of Philippians: A Discourse in Joy**

**The Secret to Contentment - Philippians 4:10-23**

**Hermeneutics, Ask questions about the usual interpretation:**

It is common to isolate a scripture verse to find its meaning, which in my view, turns scripture into fortune cookie interpretation. (This method is called eisegesis)

*“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”* Philippians 4:13

Usual view: Paul presents the idea that you can achieve great things through God's power.

**The Secret to Contentment.**

*"10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:10–13)

**Freedom from a life of need:**

1. Understand the nature of need. (4:11)

“Need” - Hustereo That which comes late, the focus is on the shortfall, the need.

1. Understand the nature of contentment. (4:11)

“Content” - Autarkes, Self + sufficient. Not as a matter of independence but satisfaction for what one has so that there is no need for more.

1. Understand the secret of contentment. (4:12-13)

“I have learned the Secret” - Mueo, to initiate into a mystery.

**The Fruit of Generosity.**

*"14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”* (Philippians 4:14–20)

**Increased fruit to your credit.**

Credit means account.

**Generosity is an offering.**

The offering is Fragrant, Sacrificial, and Pleasing

**God will supply all your needs.**

“Need” - from Chroamai to focus on a usable asset. (Contrast to the word need in 4:11 hustereo, to focus on a shortfall)