

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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December 29, 2024

### ***“Learning Contentment”***

By Jeremy Paschall

When the apostle Paul received financial relief from his beloved Philippian brethren, he “rejoiced in the Lord greatly” (Philippians 4.10) and commended them for having “done well” (v. 14).

Because of their generosity, he had “an abundance” and was “amply supplied” (v. 18). But there had been a time when Paul’s needs were not met (v. 10), not because the Philippians lacked concern for his welfare, but because they had lacked opportunity to serve him in that way. While acknowledging these past circumstances, Paul wrote these words:

*“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”* (Philippians 4.11)

Even while suffering adversity and need, the apostle Paul had learned a quieted and settled disposition. Despite false accusations, unjust treatment, and the wrongful imprisonment from which he wrote these words, he had adopted a paradigm uncommon among mankind.

What had Paul learned about contentment?

### **Flawed Foundations**

Paul had learned that contentment does not depend upon External Circumstances, but instead it transcends “any and every circumstance” (v. 12; cf. v. 11). When “brought low” (v. 12 ESV; cf. 2 Corinthians 11.23-28), he did not speak with doubt, fear, bitterness, or anger.

When he was blessed to “abound” (v. 12 ESV; cf. Acts 16.14-40; 17.11,22; 19.1-10), there was no hint of arrogance, self-righteousness, or boasting. Paul wavered not with his personal lows and highs, but maintained a steady composure through them all.

Paul had learned that contentment does not depend upon Material Resources (v. 12). At this writing, he had been “filled” by the Philippians’ gift, but there were times when it was not so. He had also experienced “going hungry” (v. 12; cf. 1 Corinthians 4.11-12a).

However, even in the midst of such dire need, having become “the dregs of all things” (1 Corinthians 4.13b), his words ring of peace within — “when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; when we are slandered, we try to conciliate” (v. 12-13a).

Paul had learned that contentment does not depend upon Other People. While he rejoiced to have the help of others in his work (v. 10a), this had not always been so. Even the Philippians had “lacked opportunity” to help in the past (v. 10b), and others willfully forsook their brother (Acts 13.13; 2 Timothy 3.10,16a). Only a heart that had learned real contentment could say, “*May it not be counted against them*” (2 Timothy 4.16b).

If these are flawed, then upon what foundation did Paul’s contentment rest?

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4.13)

Paul had learned contentment by trusting the Lord's Provisions. He believed in Jesus' promise for those who *"seek first His kingdom and His righteousness"* (Matthew 6.33) and that *"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed"* (2 Corinthians 9.8).

Furthermore, he trusted "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1.3), the One "who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think" (3.20).

Paul had learned contentment by trusting the Lord's Peace, a serenity enjoyed when we walk with Him — rejoicing, praying, thinking, and doing (Philippians 4.4-9) — and when we allow Him to walk with us (Hebrews 13.5-6). Paul had learned the worth of praying, in the words of T.O. Chisholm, "Be with me, Lord, no other gift or blessing, Thou couldst bestow could with this one compare; A constant sense of Thy abiding presence, Where'er I am to feel that Thou art near."

Paul had learned contentment by trusting the Lord's Power. He leaned upon the God "who always leads us in triumph in Christ" (2 Corinthians 2.14), whose "grace is sufficient," and whose "power is perfected in [our] weaknesses" (12.9).

When everyone else had abandoned Paul, "the Lord stood with [him] and strengthened [him] . . . and [he] was rescued out of the lion's mouth" (2 Timothy 4.17).

Only divine power could impart such confidence.

*"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4.19)

Paul's God — the God who fostered Paul's contentment with His provisions, His peace, and His power — is able and willing to supply all our needs from His glorious storehouse of riches. He will cultivate within our hearts that same transcendent calm when we learn to trust "Him who strengthens" (Philippians 4.13).

And when we do, we will join the resounding chorus of the content, *"Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen"* (v. 20).

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## ***"Un-Compromised Truth"***

By Scott Beyer

*"But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you."* (Galatians 2:5)

When Paul and Barnabas spoke with the brethren in Jerusalem about accepting the Gentiles without requiring circumcision — it was an unpopular view. Their lives became increasingly difficult because they refused to budge and accept circumcision.

Paul knew that if he would only compromise a little bit, life would get a lot easier... but it was a compromise he was unwilling to make.

We cannot afford to bend truth to the whims of culture or tradition because making that compromise removes the "truth of the gospel".

The good news must remain preserved though the world would happily have us adjust and constantly pressures us to do so.

The gospel cannot be subject to man; man must be subject to the gospel.

~via Eastland Church of Christ; Louisville, Kentucky.

## **Memory Verse of the Week:**



### **Philippians 4:1 (NKJB)**

*"Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved."*

**Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:**

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, Lowell Gann, and Paul Busby was sick last week and recovering.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "How Being Sincere Helps Us"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

**Workbook:** Fred Johnson  
**Author:** The Books Of James  
**Starting Page & Question:** Rick Billingsley  
*Page 33, Question #1*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Danny Sheffield  
**Scripture Reading:** *Luke 17:30-32*  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Lord's Supper:** Paul Johnson  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "Remember Lot's Wife"  
**Closing Prayer:** Doug George

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**January 1, 2025**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
**Workbook:** Great Bible Characters: Paul  
**Author:** By Bobby L. Graham  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page 10, Question #1*  
**Invitation:** Dan Cottrell  
**Song Leader:** Tim Harris Sr.  
**Closing Prayer:** Paul Busby

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## ***“How Being Sincere Helps Us”***

Lesson Text: **Philippians 1:9-11**. Paul Sincerely Prays For Their Sincerity.

### **I. Sincerity Helps Us To Be Open-Minded To The Truth.**

- **Open-Minded:** willing to listen to other people and consider new ideas, suggestions, and opinions.
- The Bible Speaks Of Those Open & Close Minded:
  - **Matthew 13:10-15;** The Disciples Were Open-Minded- **vs. 16-17.**
  - **Acts 7:51-60.**
  - **Acts 10:30-33;** Their Obedience In **vs. 47-48.**
  - **Acts 17:30-34.**
  - **Acts 28:26-27.** Paul Found Some Just Like Jesus Said....

### **II. Sincerity Helps Us To Fully Investigate Truth Vs Error.**

- Those Who Are Honest & Sincere Will Diligently Investigate For Truth:
  - **Proverbs 18:13.**
  - **Acts 17:11.**
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:21.**
  - **1 John 4:1-6.** Spirit Of Truth Vs. Spirit Of Error.
- Unity In Diversity—Not Sincere Unity; Denominationalism Is Division;
- Salvation By Belief Alone; Baptism For The Remission Of Sins....

### **III. Sincerity Helps Us To Change When We Are Wrong.**

- **Acts 9:1-21-** Saul Changed From Fighting To Preaching The Truth!
- **Acts 18:** Apollos Changed To The Truth-
- The Disciples In **Acts 19:1-5.**
- Sincere People Have Left False Religions To Obey The Truth.
- They Didn't Let Love Of Creeds, False Teachers, Or Their Favorite Denomination Keep Them From Obeying God.

### **IV. Sincerity Helps Our Conscience To Be Clear.**

- Honesty, Sincerity, & Truth Go Together- **1 Corinthians 5:8.**
- **2 Corinthians 2:17**
- **2 Peter 2:12-14** The False Teacher Cannot Have A Good Conscience!
- **1 Timothy 1:5.**

# **“Remember Lot’s Wife”**

Lesson Text: **Luke 17:30-32.** What Happened In Genesis 19 Still Has Lessons Today.

## **She Perished, Even Though:**

### **I. She Was Warned Of The Danger.**

- **Genesis 19:15-26.** She Failed To Follow The Angel’s Instructions....
- **Vs. 26-** The Consequences Were Dire... Pillar of Salt!
- We Must Take Seriously The Warnings Of Scripture:
  - **Acts 3:22-23.** Peter Makes Application To Christian Age.
  - **2 Peter 3:1-9.** Just Like **Genesis 19:13-14.**
  - Flee This World To Escape God’s Punishment— **vs. 10-14.**

### **II. She Made Some Effort To Be Saved.**

- **Vs.26,** She Was With Her Family Going The Direction The Angel Directed Them To Go.
- It Seems Her Problem Was Leaving The City Where They Had Lived For Some Time.
  - First, They Had delayed leaving- **Vs. 15-17.**
  - Second, **Vs. 26,** *“And His Wife Looketh Expectingly from behind him.”*  
(Young’s Literal Translation).
  - *“But Lot’s wife looked back longingly and was turned into a pillar of salt.”*  
(NET Bible).
  - The Hebrew Verb means to look intently, to gaze longingly (see Genesis 15:5).
  - **Luke 17:33,** What Jesus Says Right After **Luke 17:32-** *“Remember Lot’s Wife.”*

### **III. She Committed But One Sin.**

- One Sin Is Enough To Bring God’s Punishment. **Romans 6:23.**
- The Bible Teaches Us About Sin:
  - With Lot’s Wife, It Was Just “One Look.” **Genesis 19:26.**
  - With Uzzah, It Was Just “One Touch.” **2 Samuel 6:6-7.**
  - With Moses, It Was Just “One Strike.” **Numbers 20:11.**

### **IV. She Was On Her Way To Safety.**

- Much Like The Israelites Who Left Egypt Going To The Promised Land...
- It Reminds Us Today— Don’t Go Back To A Life Of Sin! **2 Peter 2:20-22.**
  - **Luke 9:62.**
- Press On To The Place Of Safety— Heaven! **Philippians 3:14.**