

## UNBROKEN

### "ALL I NEVER NEED" PHILIPPIANS 4:10-19

#### **This Week's Core Competency**

**Personal God** – *I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.* Psalm 121:1-2,  
*I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Happiness is all the rage these days. Numerous universities and think tanks are publishing studies on the factors contributing to happiness and even which countries are the happiest. Sadly, according to the 2013 World Happiness Report the United States of America ranks the 17th most happy nation behind Canada (6th), Norway (2nd), and Denmark (1st).

ABC News Correspondent Dan Harris recently published a book (currently the #2 Self-Help Bestseller at Amazon) about becoming just 10 percent happier. He is a frequent ABC News presenter on "happiness techniques" and promotes stories highlighting how to become happier through various religious and psychological techniques.

---

***That's the difference between me  
and the rest of the world! Happiness  
isn't good enough for me! I demand  
euphoria!***

– Bill Watterson  
(Calvin and Hobbes)

---

And who can help but tap their toes to the global musical hit by Pharrell Williams? Simply titled "Happy," the single has topped Billboard's Hot 100 chart and is currently number one on the iTunes chart in more than 90 countries. "Happy" invites everyone to clap their hands with all the fervor of a gospel choir, pronouncing boldly that "happiness is the truth." Pharrell is joining with the United Nations Foundation in the promotion of International Happiness Day on March 20th. The UN Foundation officially proclaims that "the pursuit of happiness is a fundamental human goal" and recognizes "the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and the well-being of all peoples."

With happiness topping the charts, how is it working in your life? Unfortunately for many, happiness seems elusive if not fictional. We often think that if something good would happen to us or for us, we could then be happy-maybe even just 10 percent happier. We often think that happiness displaces unhappiness. Or that if we lower our expectations or just ignore the negative in our lives, we can be happier.

God is involved in and cares about our daily lives. He wants more for us than happiness. Consider this as you dig into God's words on contentment, empowerment and fulfillment in this week's study.

---

# day 1 ENCOUNTER – read God’s word to put yourself in touch with him.

## Philippians 4:10-19

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. 17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Record your comments:

## EXAMINE – what the passage says before you decide what it means.

- \*Circle the words "you" and "your" throughout the passage.
- \*Underline occurrences of "Lord" or "God" throughout the passage.
- \*Bracket the phrase "I can do all this" in verse 13.
- \*Draw arrows from the phrase "I can do all this" to what can be done as described in verses 11-12.
- \*Draw a box around the word "strength" in verse 13.
- \*Draw an arrow to the source of this strength.
- \*Circle the words "share" and "shared" in verses 14 and 15.
- \*Circle words in verses 15-18 that are examples of this "sharing."
- \*Box the word "They" in verse 18.
- \*Draw arrows from the word "They" in verse 18 to words that identify this pronoun.
- \*Underline the word "needs" in verse 19.
- \*Double underline the phrase showing how "your needs" will be met (verse 19).

---

## day 2

**EXPLORE** – the answer to these questions to better understand what the passage means.

Consult the explanation of the message and the notes to follow if you need help.

1. For what did Paul rejoice, according to Philippians 4:10?
2. How is contentment, as described in Philippians 4:11-13, different from philosophical understandings of well-being (hedonism, stoicism, fatalism, etc.)?
3. How do you and I "learn the secret" as described in Philippians 4:12?
4. How are "strength" (4:13) and "being content" related?
5. Philippians 4:14-16 is a brief historical "flashback" for Paul. Explain what happened.
6. "To share" (v. 14) is to express fellowship or partnership. According Philippians 4:10-19, what is included in such partnership?
7. According to Philippians 4:17-18a, what analogy does Paul initially use for giving?
8. According to Philippians 4:18b, what second analogy does Paul use to describe giving?
9. According to Philippians 4:10-19, who is the giver and who is the recipient?
10. What relationship do you see between Philippians 4:13 and Philippians 4:19?

---

## day 3

# EXAMINE – an explanation of the message to better understand the meaning of the passage.

Who's your buddy?

We all have buddies. We may have golfing buddies, knitting buddies, skiing buddies or daycare buddies. In just about any slice of life you can find a buddy. A buddy is more than a friend. You can talk with your friends all day on a phone or social media, but with a buddy, you have to do something together. A buddy requires activity.

HR Departments in many corporations today have "Buddy Programs," often a major component of Onboarding Plans for New Hires. New employees are not only assigned managers and work teams but are also matched up with a "buddy." The buddy is not a manager or subordinate. Instead, the buddy checks in on the new hire and addresses issues he or she may be afraid to ask a boss or a subordinate. The buddy seeks the success of the new hire and may only indirectly benefit from the effort.

Military units and scouting troupes have used the "Buddy System" for decades. You may not outrank or out-badge your buddy, but you do look out for each other's safety and well-being. You buddy sees what you cannot see. "I got your back" is frequent lingo for "buds."

As a Christian, who is your buddy? Or even more important, to whom are you a buddy? It's not just being friendly or cordially supportive. Whose back have you got?

To Paul, the Philippians were more than just fellow believers. These Macedonians were more than friendly supporters; they were Paul's buddies. They had his back. "The Philippian Christians were special favorites of the Apostle Paul. Their response to the gospel and their subsequent progress in the faith were exemplary... The theme of the epistle is participation in the gospel. Everything in this letter deals with that subject in some way." (Thomas L. Constable, "Notes on Philippians," 2014 ed., [www.soniclight.org](http://www.soniclight.org)) The Philippians were more than financial supporters of Paul and his ministry. They were active partners and ministry buddies, concerned about the welfare and goodwill of Paul and his team.

Our passage begins in verse 10 with Paul's rejoicing at the renewed and revitalized concern that the Philippians had for him. Paul acknowledges that the Philippians were concerned for him even when they were unable to give financially (4:10b). Paul is grateful for the care and concern showed to him by the Philippians and does not want them to think that his

gratitude is due to desperation or dependence.

Paul claims in 4:11-13 that God is His ultimate partner. Paul states that he has learned to be content in excess or in want. This contentment was far superior to momentary happiness. The word Paul uses for "content" was used in his day to represent Stoicism. Stoicism is the philosophy of self-control and limitation. In contrast to Epicureanism and Hedonism, which emphasized the pursuit and consumption of pleasure, Stoics shunned desire and pleasure and sought to be self-sufficient and above pleasure or pain. In contrast to Stoicism, Paul bases his contentment not upon self-discipline or self-denial, but upon God who strengthens him (4:13). "The Stoic's (and Cynic's) 'sufficiency/contentment' comes from within oneself; Paul's comes from without, from his being 'a man in Christ,' on whom he is totally 'dependent' and thus not 'independent' at all in the Stoic sense. Because Paul and the Philippians are both 'in Christ,' neither is dependent on the other for life in the world; but also because they are both 'in Christ,' Paul received their gift with joy, because this is how Christ helped him to 'abound' in this case" (Gordon D. Fee, *Paul's Letter to the Philippians*, NICNT, 427). Paul could rejoice in his friends (very un-Stoic) and seek the pleasure of God (equally un-Stoic) for his friends because God was the source of peace and joy. Paul was not anti-happiness like the Stoics. He had something far superior. Because Paul was well cared for by God, he could offer care and concern for his partners in Christ.

Because of Paul's dependence upon God, he could fondly recall the Philippians' past partnership (4:14-16) and not stoically dismiss this kindness as beneath him or his needs. The "sharing" that Paul describes in 4:14-16 involves a word often translated "fellowship." "The verb defines and illustrates the closeness of this bond which brought and kept together the apostle and his friends. It means 'had fellowship, koinonia, with me', i.e. they had identified themselves with the apostle in partnership on behalf of the work of the gospel" (Ralph Martin, *The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians*, TNTC, 180).

Paul was not begging for money; God was his source of strength and resource (4:13). Paul was not stoically dismissive of generosity as a sign of weakness. Instead he thought of the Philippian believers as his partners and fellow laborers. It was from this healthy friendship that Paul encouraged his partners in the

---

gospel to give or share even more (4:17-18). Paul wished three powerful experiences upon his ministry partners, his "benevolent buds": 1) that the givers would be credited by God for their abundant benevolence (4:17a), 2) that God would be pleased with their gifts as with a sweet-smelling fragrant Old Testament sacrifice (4:18), and 3) that these partners would be blessed by the richness of the glory of Christ Jesus (4:19). Paul wanted his partners, his "buds," to have more from God than they ever gave to him.

Readers of Philippians 4 have often stretched 4:13 far beyond the field of its intended meaning. Paul could endure extremities of abundance or want because of the strength he received from Christ. In Philippians 4:13, Paul does not claim to be able to do superhuman feats. Rather, because of dependence upon a God who deeply cares for him, Paul (along with us) can get through any extremity with God's strength.

Philippians 4:19 has equally been misapplied to

the wholesale meeting of our every need. This verse comes as blessing and prayer from Paul to those who had already partnered with him financially and personally in the work of the gospel. God will supply far beyond our generosity. To expect God to meet all our needs before we are ever generous is to stretch 4:19 too far. God's pleasure from our gifts to others should be prioritized before the fulfillment of our own needs.

We take great pleasure and comfort from the truth that God is personal (4:19, "My God") and cares about our daily life. Few would doubt His partnership or fellowship with us. His care is better than any earthly happiness. Yet how faithful and consistent is our partnership or fellowship with God? Is He pleased with our daily offerings of generosity and service to others (4:18)? How much of our partnership with Him and His servants is being "credited to our account"? With God and his followers, how good of a "buddy" are you?

## *The Message of the Passage*

*Learn to rely upon God's strength in all circumstances. Please God by partnering with other believers in the gospel and God will meet your needs beyond your imagination.*

day  **EMBRACE** – how God spoke to you in his word.

Our desire is to not be merely hearers of the word, but doers of the word as James teaches in James 1:22. Reflect on 3 "living questions" to apply what you have learned this week.

- **Journal your thoughts on the passage:**

–Write about how God is making himself known to you, how God wants to change you, or how God is calling you to change your world .

---

## notes **N** STUDY – the commentaries to answer the questions.

- v. 10 **rejoiced** Same word found throughout Philippians. Most recently in 4:1 and 4:4. "With the addition of the adverb 'greatly' he tells them that he burst into joy at the arrival of Epaphroditus" (Fee, 428).
- v. 10 **renewed** "The word is found here only here in the New Testament; but in the Hellenistic Greek of the Septuagint and Apocrypha it occurs often with the transitive sense...It is difficult to render the sentence literally into English. In their care of the apostle they had put forth new shoots; they had been as a tree which had been bare and blossomless in winter, but they had grown green again and had yielded fruit; for this last idea is implied in the context." (John Eadie, *Commentary on the Greek Text of the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians*, 261).
- v. 11 **content** "Is found only in this vers in the New Testament. As a moral term it plays an important part in the stoic outlook upon life. Socrates, for instance, is held up by Diogenese Laertius in the third century AD as a n example of the 'self-sufficient' man who faced, with equanimity and resolution, all that life brought to him. Paul's use of the term is, however, quite distinct from the stoic ideal as verse 13 shows. A stoic term may be used; but it is Christ who is the secret of Paul's serenity." (Martin, 178).
- v. 12 **secret** "The turn of phrase, 'I have learned the secret', memyemai uses a technical expression of the pagan mystery cults which employed it of the initiation of their adherents. It is found only here in the New Testament. If the contemporary meaning was in Paul's mind when he wrote the word it might suggest that, as a ritual initiation was not easy matter, the school in which he was learning how to face life victoriously was a hard one, a fact which is amply attested in his other writings. His 'initiation' was not ecstatic, secret affair. It meant being willing to be a public spectacle (1 Cor 4:9ff) and to undergo all sorts of hardship (2 Cor 11:23ff) for Christ's sake." (179).
- v. 13 **do all this** "Everything, in this case, of course, refers first of all to his living in 'want or plenty.' Paul finds Christ sufficient in times of bounty as well as in times of need. Although he appears to have had less fo the former than the latter, her is his way of handling the warning to Israel given in Deuteronomy 8 that they not forget the Lord once they have experienced plenty. Thus this passage is not an expression of Stoicism, not even a Christianized version of the Stoic ideal; rather, it is but another of scores of such passages that indicate the Christ-centeredness of Paul's whole life. He is a 'man in Christ.' As such he takes what Christ brings. If it means 'plenty,' he is a man in Christ and that alone; if it means 'want,' he is still a man in Christ, and he accepts deprivation as part of his understanding of discipleship." (Fee, 434-35).
- v. 14 **share** "The NIV translates this accurately but perhaps too casually: 'You share in my trouble.' Two important terms indicate the significance of their contribution to Paul. First, they participated with him. The Greek sygkoinoneo emphasizes that participation. The basic translation, 'fellowship,' means 'a deep partnership of two going in the same direction.' This is heightened by the preposition 'with' (syn), which has a perfective force here. It stresses a complete, deep partnership with Paul. Second, Paul identified their partnership specifically with his 'troubles.' The term naturally implies hardship of any kind, but it had a deeper significance for Paul...In reflecting on his tribulations, Paul realized the eschatological significance of his ministry and that those who supported him participated in that themselves. Their gifts evidenced their willingness to identify with the new era inaugurated by Jesus." (Richard Melick, *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*, 155).
- v. 17 **credited** "Moule brings out the commercial flavor with his translation: 'the interest which is accruing to your credit.' What the Philippians gave as their gift was like an investment which would repay rich dividends in the service of the kingdom, as accumulating interest stands to the credit (*logos*) of the depositor. At the last day such generous and unstinted service which expressed itself in practical monetary support would not go unrecognized or unrewarded (cf. 1:11). This is the ambition of Paul for his benefactors: it is surely a most remarkable way of saying 'Thank you' to the Philippians" (Martin, 183)
- v. 19 **my God will meet** "In the phrase 'my God,' emphatic from its position, the apostle does not merely express his own relationship to God, as in 1:3, but he means his readers to infer this idea - this God who accepts your sacrifice is 'my God;' and 'my God' so honoured and so pleased with you gift to me, will supply all your need. I who receive your contribution can only thank you, but my God who accepts the sacrifice will nobly reward you. You have supplied one element of my need, but my God will supply every need of yours. I have been filled (4:18) and God, my God, will in turn fill all your need." (Eadie, 282)
- v.19 **riches** "The Philippians generosity toward Paul, expressed lavishly at the beginning of 4:18, is exceeded beyond all imagination by the lavish 'wealth' of the eternal God, who dwells 'in glory' full of 'riches' made available to his own 'in Christ Jesus.' God's 'riches' are thos inherent to his being God, Creator and Lord of all; nothing lies outside his rightful ownership and domain. They are his 'in glory' in the sense that his 'riches' exist in the sphere of God's glory, where God 'dwells' in infinite splendor and majesty, the 'glory' that is his as God alone." (Fee, 453)

### Family Talk

Encouragement from one parent's heart to another

Shortly after Thanksgiving last year a man walked into a Houston grocery store and told the clerk at the cash register that he wanted to anonymously pay for the groceries of the next ten people who came through the line. Eight-year-old Johnny in Springfield, Virginia, set up a lemonade stand that raised over \$500. He gave the money to his neighbor, who had a tree crash through his house during a storm. A man in Michigan bought 40 Christmas Trees last year to give away to families who couldn't afford a tree. Some families had never had a Christmas tree before. A lady at Pantego Bible Church waits at a local gas station with gift cards just to randomly bless people who drive up for gas. All of these people generously meet the needs of others. All of them are able to bless others because they have been blessed by the One who owns everything. In our text this week we are reminded that it is God who meets all of our needs. His glorious riches never run out. I am thankful He uses us with our meager possessions to bless others but I am counting on His abundant provision to be sufficient for all my needs. Who needs a blessing this week? Why don't you go ahead and make someone's day and meet a need?

#### What Does The Bible Say

Read: Philippians 4:10-19

1. What does Paul say he has learned in verse 11?
2. Fill in the blanks. "I can do \_\_\_\_\_ things through \_\_\_\_\_ who gives me \_\_\_\_\_." (v. 13)
3. In verse 19, how will God meet all of your needs?

#### What Do You Think

Paul was under house arrest for boldly preaching about Jesus when he wrote this letter to the people of Philippi. Yet, he was content in his circumstances. Why do you think that was so?

#### What R U Going To Do

Sit down with your family and make a list of things you need. There will likely be many items listed that have already been supplied by God. Thank Him for those. Then, pray together for the unmet needs on your list and watch for God meet your needs.

### MEMORY TIME

Core Comp

Personal God - I believe God cares about everything in my life.

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:19 - *And my God will meet all of your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

### KIDPIX COUPON

I memorized CC \_\_\_\_\_ and Verse \_\_\_\_\_. Family completed **Say** \_\_\_\_\_ **Think** \_\_\_\_\_ **Do** \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Earn tokens by completing the Bible study portion of this page.  
Questions: Kids@pantego.org

# 30 CORE COMPETENCIES

## 10 CORE BELIEFS

### **Trinity** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### **Salvation By Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9*

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Authority of the Bible** *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

### **Personal God** *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

### **Identity in Christ** *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

### **Church** *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

### **Humanity** *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

### **Compassion** *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

### **Eternity** *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

### **Stewardship** *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

## 10 CORE PRACTICES

### **Worship** *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

### **Prayer** *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

### **Bible Study** *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

### **Single-mindedness** *Matthew 6:33*

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

### **Spiritual Gifts** *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

### **Biblical Community** *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

### **Giving Away My Time** *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

### **Giving Away My Money**

*2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

### **Giving Away My Faith** *Ephesians*

*6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

### **Giving Away My Life** *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 CORE VIRTUES

### **Joy** *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

### **Peace** *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

### **Faithfulness** *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

### **Self-Control** *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

### **Humility** *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

### **Love** *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

### **Patience** *Proverbs 14:29*

I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

### **Kindness/Goodness** *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

### **Gentleness** *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

### **Hope** *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

## About the Authors

**Tom Bulick** (M.A. in Educational Leadership, Eastern Michigan University, Th.M. in Old Testament, and Ph.D. in Bible Exposition, Dallas Theological Seminary). For more than forty years, Tom has served as pastor, faculty member, and administrator. Tom was Vice President for Student Life and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Trinity Western University (Vancouver, B.C.) for twelve years before accepting the position of Spiritual Formation Pastor at Pantego Bible Church in 1998. He and his wife Ruth have one son, Zach.

**Wendy Hollabaugh** (B.S.W. University of Texas at Arlington) is the Children's Minister at Pantego Bible Church. Wendy has over ten years of experience in Children's Ministry. She has a passion for leading families to connect with God and each other. She enjoys creating compelling environments where kids fall in love with God and His Truth. Wendy and her husband, Greg, are also involved in their own personal youth ministry as they are training their three teenagers, Hannah, Aaron and Noah.

**Eric Wright** (Th.M. Dallas Theological Seminary) guest author.



8001 Anderson Blvd.  
Ft. Worth, TX 76120  
1-866-PANTEGO  
Fax 817-275-6403  
www.pantego.org

The mission of THE SCROLLS is to help you Belong, Become, and go Beyond as follower of Jesus Christ through your own active reading of the Bible. Send any questions or comments you may have about this lesson to Tom Bulick. His e-mail address is [tbulick@pantego.org](mailto:tbulick@pantego.org).