

**PHILIPPIANS (COUNT IT ALL JOY)
PROGRAM 27 (#912112)
WEEK 6 (#912323)
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SERIES: Philippians (Count It All Joy)

TITLE: Program 27 – Supplying The Work

TUESDAY

OPEN

Consumption, consumption; we as a people are consumed with consumption. And the question is, can something be done about our consumption? You say why? I mean what is life all about? Isn't it about getting more and more and more? Well let me ask you a question: are you happier because you have more or do you just work harder? Why does God give you material possessions and the ability to make money?

PART ONE

O Beloved, do you realize that the desire to have more and more and more can bring a greater heaviness, a greater pressure, a greater stress into your life so that you really lose the joy of simple living, the joy of simplicity, the joy of not being occupied with consuming things in order to make you happy? Well, as we come to this lesson on the book of Philippians, the book that tells us how to have joy no matter what. How to have joy, chapter 1,

despite imprisonment, despite no matter what confines us. That if we know and understand that Christ is our life, then wherever we are, whatever imprisonment, whatever confinement we find ourselves in, we're all right, because to live is Christ and to die is gain. If we understand from Philippians, chapter 2, that we can have joy despite people, joy despite people because we have the mind of Christ. Christ is not only our life, chapter 1, but Christ is our mind, Christ is our attitude. And our attitude and our mind is set on others. Joy is Jesus first, and then others second and then us, you, me in proper perspective. And so when we come to chapter 3 of Philippians, we can see that we can have joy and we can have joy despite things, because we have one goal. And that one goal is not things, and attainment in life, but it is pressing on towards the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Well we come to chapter 4 and we find out that we can have joy despite circumstances because whatever our circumstances are we can make it because it is Christ who strengthens, who infuses His life in us. And yet, as He infuses His life in us, how does that put us in perspective with people, with things, and with the circumstances of life? Well, as we come to this portion of Philippians chapter 4, Paul turns and he gives a personal word of exhortation to those in Philippi. And he's going to talk to them about their support of him. Now remember we saw in our last program that Paul learned to be content whether he had plenty, whether he abounded in prosperity, or whether he suffered deep, deep, deep, and I mean deep need, whether he had plenty to eat or whether he was going hungry he **"...learned to be content in whatever circumstance...."** (Philippians 4:11b) he found himself in. And so now in Philippians 4 what he does is he segues from his being content to the fact that these people in Philippi have revived their concern of him. They have revived their support of him, and he has received this and it has an impact on his life. And as we look at these last final verses what you're going to see is something that is going to be absolutely critical, I mean critical in your life. And it's going to be critical and, and it's

something that you and I rarely think of as critical, because we are a consumptive society. We just want to consume more and more and more and more. We are far more hedonistic than we really think that we are. And hedonistic means that I am living for my pleasure. Hedonistic means it's all about me, it's all about filling my desires, satisfying my cravings, making my appetite go away for whatever by just consuming more and more. So watch Paul segue. In Philippians, chapter 4 this is what he says in verse 11, **“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,”** now watch what he uses, **“I have learned the secret [the secret] of being filled and going hungry.” (Philippians 4:11-12)** Now what is that secret that keeps you content, that enables you to rejoice? Because Paul says, **“[I’ve rejoice greatly in the Lord, now that] at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned..., but you lacked opportunity.” (Philippians 4:10)** So what is the secret that Paul has found **“of being filled and going hungry, both of having [an] abundance and suffering need?” (Philippians 4:12b)** Now I want you to notice the word suffering. It is a painful situation that he is in. It's a lack of food or it is a lack of provision that is causing him physical distress. He says, **“[I’ve been suffering need, and yet I’ve learned the secret of being content.]”** He says, **“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)** In other words, **“[My secret is not to look to circumstances, not to look at people, but my secret is to look to the Lord and to say, ‘God, You are the one that has promised to supply all my needs according to Your riches in glory through Christ Jesus our Lord.’”]** If you never suffered need then you would never know the strength of Jesus Christ. If you were never in tribulation you would never know the comfort of Christ. If you were never in straits where there was no way out that you could see, you would never know the miraculous provision and the

sufficiency of the grace of God, Beloved. There is something so precious about being in a trial. There is something so precious about having a need and not knowing how that need is going to be provided. There is something so precious about, about taking a look at life and looking at your life and comparing it with the world and saying to God, “I’m so thankful I don’t have to live like that. I’m so thankful that You have set me free from all this pressure to succeed and to dress like and talk like and live like and act like and consume like the rest of the world. I’m so thankful that you’ve set me free, free.” And its truth, Beloved, that sets us free. Now watch what he says. [“Nevertheless I have learned the secret of being content and suffering need. I can do all things; I can bear all things through Him who strengthens me. Nevertheless,”] Now watch what he does. He’s going to segue now to the Philippians: **“Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.” (Philippians 4:14)** **“Nevertheless you have done well to share with me....”** Now he’s not asking you to share with people so that they can buy more luxurious things, so that they can stay and be treated like kings and eat like kings because they’re in the ministry and they deserve it. That’s not what he’s talking about. Paul didn’t live like that. He’s saying, **“You have done well to share with me in my affliction.”** And he goes on to say, **“You yourselves also know, Philippians,”** now this is the first time he’s called them Philippians. He says, **“You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, but you alone.” (Philippians 4:15)** [“I went in, I took them the gospel. I taught them the Word of God.”] And if you study Acts, you know that while he was in those cities, that he labored with his own hands so he wouldn’t be a burden for anyone. He wasn’t asking people to support him, but he made tents because he was a tentmaker. And he did this so that he could say, [“I’m giving you the gospel without charge.”] And yet, yet for their benefit, just as for your benefit and my benefit, we have the privilege of

sharing with those in the body of Jesus Christ. Watch what he goes on to say. He said, **“No church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.” (Philippians 4:15b-16)** Now watch. He was in Thessalonica. He was there and he was taking care of that church and he was bringing the gospel, and we know that he was there for at least three weeks. But apparently the people around him, because they were just coming to know Christ, were not supporting him and yet before he ever went to Thessalonica he had been in Philippi. And when he had been in Philippi, and there was just a small group of believers at the beginning, that small group of believers sent money from Philippi to Thessalonica to take care of Paul. You know every year, or every other year; it depends on whether we do Rome or not, but we do a teaching study tour. And we teach the book of Philippians in Philippi. We teach the book of Thessalonians in Thessalonica. We go to Berea and teach Paul’s method of operation. We drive then all the way down to Athens, and as we do, we study the book of Daniel, the prophecies of Daniel because it all has to do with that period of history and and the Greek Empire. And then from there we go on down and teach Acts in Athens, Corinthians in Corinth. We get on a cruise ship, we do a sail of the Aegean Sea and we go to the Isle of Patmos and we teach the book of Revelation, and then we go to other islands and then we end up in Ephesus where we teach the book of Ephesians, right on site so that you see all that happened. And so as I’m saying this to you, all of this is very vivid in my mind. If you want to know more about this or you even want to get, even at this time the study guide on Philippians, go to our website. That’s preceptsforlife.com, preceptsforlife.com. And then right after this break we’re going to continue in this important ministry, ministry of giving and the warning about consumption.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Oh how I would love to have you go in person with us on that Epistle Study Tour where we study Paul's epistles. And I want you to know that we don't take huge groups. And we don't take huge groups because I'm with you all day and our staff is with you all day. I don't just show up and teach, but I am there as your primary teacher and oh we study, and we study, and we study and learn and we laugh and we pray and we cry and we eat together, we share together. We just have the most wonderful, wonderful time. But as I read this, in my mind's eye, I can see Paul in Philippi. I can remember the prison where he was imprisoned. I know the distance from Philippi to Thessalonica and I think about Paul leaving Philippi after having spent the night in jail and after having been beaten and threatened and then how he walked all the way to Thessalonica. And when he got to Thessalonica he knew that there was a group of people that he left behind in Philippi that understood the principle of giving, the principle of working and earning money, but not for personal consumption, but for something much higher, a much higher calling, and that's the high calling of helping the saints of God and furthering the work of Jesus Christ. Watch what Paul says. He says, **"For even,"** verse 16 of Philippians 4, **"For even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs."**

(Philippians 4:16) Now why would he do that? Well, before he ever went to Thessalonica he was in the Galatian region and he wrote the churches in Galatia an epistle and it's called the Epistle to the Galatians. And in Galatians, chapter 6 this is what he says in verse 6, **"The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with [him] who teaches him."**

(Galatians 6:6) In other words, this program, this program is supported only by those that have said, "Hey, you have taught me and now I want to support you so that you can continue to teach me ah, through the media, through the media of radio and television and the Internet, and through Webinars. I want you to be able to teach me, but also to teach others. I want you to be able to

reach not only our nation, but the nations of the world.” Well we can’t do that without you. We can’t do that without a partnership. And the reason that we can’t do it without a partnership is because it takes over 50% of our budget in order to do the work of ministry, the work of ministry in over 120 countries and over 65 languages. But we’re doing the work of ministry where we get no return, but where we are providing books that teach people how to study the Bible for themselves, in Muslim countries, in Hindu countries, in countries where they are suffering for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Now how can we do that? Because we become a channel and because we have taught you and you want to share, as Galatians 6 says, [“with those who have shared with you,”] (Paraphrase, Galatians 6:6) then that enables us to do the work that we’re doing and also to give to others. And I tell you honestly we are very, very careful with the money that we spend. We don’t buy expensive antiques and paintings and things like this for our ministry. We don’t build huge and glorious edifices. And the reason that we don’t is because there’s a world out there that needs to have the gospel; that needs to know the whole counsel of God. And so that’s where we put our money, and we put our money into the media so that we can reach more and more because we know that **“faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17 NKJV)** We know that the body of Jesus Christ needs cleansing, that the body of Jesus Christ needs freedom from all this consumption. And we know that it’s [the truth that sets you free] (Paraphrase, John 8:32) and that [you’re made clean by the washing of the water of the word.] (Paraphrase, Ephesians 5:26) And that when you’re in the Word of God then you take your eyes off of the temporal and you put them on the eternal. So watch what he goes on to say, **“The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one whom teaches him.”** And then he says, **“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked.”** He says, **“For whatever a man sows...he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh....” (Galatians 6:6-8a)** And listen;

when we keep consuming and consuming and consuming, we're sowing to our flesh. And it says, **"From the flesh [will] reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit...from the Spirit [will] reap eternal life."** You're laying up eternal treasures for eternal lives. And it says, **"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people [to all people], and especially to those who are of the household of...faith."** (Galatians 6:8b-10) Now let's go back to Philippians, chapter 4. In Philippians, chapter 4 he says, **"Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek...the profit which increases to your account. [For] I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent,"** remember, we met Epaphroditus in chapter 2, **"a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 4:17-19) In other words, Precious One, when you don't consume, consume, consume for yourself, but when you earn money and in earning that money take that money and use it to minister to others, then dear one, you are going to be used of God. I want you to go to Ephesians, chapter 4, Ephesians, chapter 4 and this is what it says, and he's talking about what we are going to do with our money. And he goes on to say, **"He who steals [let him] steal no longer."** If you've been stealing, stop it. Okay. **"But rather, he must labor,"** and this is the point I want to reach, **"rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that,"** here's a purpose clause, **"so that he will have something to share with the one who has need."** (Ephesians 4:28) Why do we work? Why do we earn money? Well obviously to put a roof over our head and to put clothes on our back and to put food in our stomach. But it's not just to build more and more and not to lay up treasures here on earth. But rather we labor so that we can have money so that we can help others so that we can be involved in eternal

things. And this is the way Paul closes his epistle, with a promise that God, if you live this way, **“will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)** He does not have a tight bank account. You can never out spend God for the gospel of Jesus Christ. And then he says, **“Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household.” (Philippians 4:20-22)** Hey, those men that have been chained to me have come to know Christ. **“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit.” (Philippians 4:23)** And He will be, Beloved, if you’re set on others and on Christ and not yourself.