

**PHILIPPIANS (COUNT IT ALL JOY)  
PROGRAM 26 (#912111)  
WEEK 6 (#912323)  
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Philippians (Count It All Joy)**

**TITLE: Program 26 – Practice Contentment**

**MONDAY**

**OPEN**

Are you hurting financially, Beloved? I mean is everything breaking? Is everything falling apart? Or maybe you've lost your job, or maybe you're afraid you're going to lose your job and you have no reserve. What are you going to do? Or it could be that maybe everything is so great and you are so prosperous and you never dreamed you'd be this prosperous. Have you learned how to handle that? Have you learned how to be content no matter your circumstances? We'll talk about it today.

**PART ONE**

As we turn, Beloved, to these final verses in the book of Philippians in the fourth chapter, we come to that key word that shows us what can happen that can rob us of our joy. Remember Philippians is the epistle of joy. And it's the epistle of joy and joy is spelled in a sense, Jesus first – and this is the way you'll have joy. You'll have joy if you keep Jesus first, if you keep

others second, and if you'll keep you in the proper perspective. And you'll have joy if you will learn that no matter your circumstances, you can have peace, you can have joy. In Philippians, chapter 4 Paul says, **"Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am."** (Philippians 4:11) Now circumstances is an important word here. And, so you want to mark it in a specific way. If you did not get the study guide to Philippians, then you need to download it. You need to download it so that you can go back and you can review these things. You can get the CD's on these programs and you can listen to them over and over and over again to the Bible on tape. I listen to the teaching of my colleagues here at Precept Ministries International. We have excellent teachers on staff. And I listen to the teachings of others, to my friends like David Jeremiah and different people like that that I love and I admire. And so I listen to those things and in the listening I grow. In the listening I'm keeping my mind and my heart focused on God. So you can get these CD's. You can take the study guide and you can sit down and you can do a study on the book of Philippians. Well we show you in that study guide that you need to mark the word circumstances. You say, "How do I get the study guide? Don't say another thing, Kay, until you tell me how to get it." Well you go to [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com), that's "preceptsforlife," all one word, dot com and then you can download the study guide. So he goes on to say, "I know how to get along with humble means, and I...know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance," and there you mark it again, **"I have learned the secret,"** there's a secret here, **"of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need."** (Philippians 4:12) Now when he's talking about having abundance, he's talking about having an abundant abundance. I mean he's talking about in having just lots and lots. And when he's talking about suffering, need he is talking about being in dire straits. He's talking about hand-to-mouth kind of stuff. And what you see is here is a man of God and this man of God is telling you that

he has experienced abundant prosperity and he has experienced abundant need. You say, “Well according to some teachers he’s experienced abundant need or desperate need because he didn’t have faith.” No, that’s not what the Bible teaches. Don’t let somebody else define your theology for you. The whole purpose of this program Precepts for Life is to teach you how to study God’s Word for yourself, how to discover truth. It is to take you through the Bible book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse so that you understand things in their context. Context is the setting in which you find a verse or in which you find a truth. And context is king. Context rules over all accurate interpretation. So as you read Philippians, the context of this book is that Paul’s in prison. That’s the historical context, it’s the biographical context. Paul’s in prison and he’s in prison for the gospel of Jesus Christ. And he has suffered in his ministry with great need, but he has also had abundant prosperity. In both of those situations he tells us that he has learned to be content. So why does He have you listening to what I’m saying today? He has you listening because He wants you to learn how to be content if everything’s falling apart. I remember when Jack and I were on the mission field and when he came in, and I mean we lived hand-to-mouth on the mission field. And I remember when he came in and he said someone just stole the tires off of my truck. And I mean it the vehicle that we got around on, it was the vehicle that pulled our trailer that took us out into the boondocks, as we ministered to those people in Mexico. And he says, “They just stole it.” And I said, “We have got to stop and we’ve got to thank God.” Because God says, **“In everything give thanks.”** 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, verse 18. “So we’ve got to thank God. Second, we’ve got to remember that God knows that they stole your tires and God’s got to give them back to us. He’s got to provide.” So what you do in any circumstance is you act properly. To act properly, Beloved, is to act biblically. Now what Paul does is once again he sets himself up as an example, and rightly so because Paul learned how to live. And this is what he says in Philippians, chapter 4. Let’s

read it. He says in verse 9, **“The things [that] you have learned and received.”** You not only heard them but you received them. [“And you heard and you saw in me.”] You heard me say them. You saw me live them. He says, **“The things [that] you have learned,”** and here’s that word things again, another key word. **“And received and heard and seen in me, practice these things.” (Philippians 4:9)** Now that word practice is in the present tense in the Greek. And the present tense in the Greek is like a continuous line, keep on, keep on, keeping on, keeping on, keep on doing these things. [“Keep on taking the things that you have learned, that you have heard, that you have seen in me and you keep on doing them. You follow me.”] Well what did he say in chapter 3, verse 17? **“Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern [that] you have in us.” (Philippians 3:17)** In other words, be an imitator of me. This is what Paul says to the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians, chapter 11. You and I are to live this way. We’re to live in such a way that we are following the pattern of those that have gone before us. Well when we look at this pattern, and we take all of the book of Philippians, and then we put Acts with it and Paul’s account of his first, second, and third missionary journeys, and then the end of Acts when he ends up in prison – and that’s in his own house arrest, in his own rented quarters but chained to a guard from Caesar’s household, from the rulers household in Rome – we find Paul being content. And so I look at him and I say, “Okay Paul, now what can I learn from you? What have I seen you do?” Well I have seen that in Philippians, chapter 1, that his passion is Christ. For him, **“to live is Christ...to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)** And the gospel’s getting preached and sometimes people are preaching it in order to hurt Paul. But this is not going to change Paul’s attitude or Paul’s walk because he’s just rejoicing, because for him to live is Christ. And so whether Christ is preached in pretense or whether Christ is preached in truth, he is still rejoicing. And so you watch him move all the way through here. You watch

him in Philippians, chapter 2 where he is being poured out as a sacrifice upon the altar of other people's faith and he's telling them, ["Rejoice, I'm being poured out, but rejoice."] I mean what a high privilege to pour out your life for Christ. In Philippians, chapter 3 you see him "[counting] **all things [as] loss for the excellency of the knowledge of [Jesus Christ]...: for whom [he] suffered the loss of all things, and [he counts] them but dung,**" (Philippians 3:8, KJV) but manure, in order **"that [he might] know [Christ], and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings."** (Philippians 3:10, KJV) You see him pressing on towards the prize and the high calling in Christ Jesus. And now in Philippians, chapter 4 you see him saying, okay, **"the things [that] you've learned...and heard and seen in me, practice these things [and practice these things] and the God of peace will be with you."** (Philippians 4:9) just like the God of peace is with me. I want to tell you something: peace cannot be bought, Beloved. It cannot be bought. It can only be laid hold of by obedience to the Scripture. You see faith and obedience are used synonymously. Because if I really believe, then I'm going to order my life that way. If I really believe, then I'm going to obey the Scriptures. So he goes on to say, **"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly."** (Philippians 4:10a) Now remember that's a key word and this is the word we're marking, rejoice. **"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you,"** you in Philippi, **"revived your concern for me; indeed, [before] you were concerned..., but you lacked opportunity."** (Philippians 4:10) Now how is that concern seen? That concern is seen in supporting Paul. I mean he's living in his own rented quarters. He has to buy his own food. He has to buy his own fuel. He has to take care of himself. And so he's saying "I so rejoice that you have revived your concern for me. In other words, there was a time when you were supplying my needs and then you stopped." But he says, "I know that you stopped because you lacked opportunity. Something happened that you couldn't get the money to me to support me or to help me." But then he goes

on to say, **“Not that I speak from want.”** “I know that you lacked the opportunity.” And he says, **“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in what ever circumstances I am.” (Philippians 4:11)** Now this is so key and it’s so key because so many of us believe that God wants us automatically prosperous, driving the best cars, wearing the best clothes, living in the best houses and just having an abundance. But that’s not what Paul is saying. And, Beloved, if that’s the way that you’re thinking and it’s not happening, then you’re all shook up. And you’re all shook up because you think, what am I doing wrong spiritually? Why do I hear these other testimonies of what God has done and He hasn’t done that for me? It’s because God wants to teach you something. You say what? We’ll talk about it when I come back.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back, Precious One. I call you Precious One because you are precious to God. I call you Precious One because you are precious to me. And I call you that because so many times we don’t think we’re precious. So many times when we are suffering want or when we are going without or when all of a sudden the tires need changing on the car and the refrigerator goes out and the air conditioner goes out or whatever we think, God doesn’t love me. He doesn’t care about me. O yes He does. Yes He does. Well you say, “If He did, He wouldn’t let me go through this, because I’m hearing all these testimonies of all these people and they give money to these ministries and they were poor and now they’re not and I’ve done it and I’m still having things going wrong.” Listen, God is over your circumstances. God is sovereign and God allows you and me to suffer need, as well as to have times of blessing or prosperity. You say, “Well Kay, I’m one of those that have never had a time of blessing or prosperity.” Well, if you haven’t time of what you call material blessing or prosperity it’s because God is using you in such an awesome way that He wants you to be an example to others

like Paul was, of being in desperate need and still being content so that when people look at you they say, “If I were in your circumstances I wouldn’t be like that. If that happened to me I wouldn’t react that way. If God allowed that I wouldn’t be walking with God.” Well see, every circumstance of life, Beloved, is a platform for you and me to show the sufficiency, the adequacy, of Jesus Christ. And this is what Paul goes on to say. He says, **“I have learned,”** in Philippians 4, verse 12, **“[I know how,] I know how to get along with humble means, and I...know how to live in prosperity; in any and every,”** and I would underline it, I would circle the every circumstance. **“I have learned.”** It’s been a process with me, but **“I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do,”** I can bear, **“all things through Him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:12-13)** Have you ever seen somebody hooked up to an infusion or hooked up to a intravenous connection where they are dropping fluid into a persons arm? Well this is the word that he’s using here. Up here when you look at that bottle that has that life-giving fluid in it or that life-giving blood in it that the patient needs think of that as Jesus. Think of that as God. Then think of that as God, then think of the tube as God using and taking what’s in that bottle that your body so desperately needs and infusing it into you. That’s what he’s saying. **“I can do [I can bear] all things through Him who strengthens me”** – who infuses His strength in me. He says, **“Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.” (Philippians 4:13-14)** So Paul’s been in affliction, and that affliction is that he has suffered need. That affliction is that he has gone hungry. The gratitude that he has is the fact that the Philippians have revived their concern for him and now they have sent a gift to him and that’s what you read on in Philippians, chapter 4. And this is what 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 manner of giving and receiving but you alone.” (Philippians**

**4:15)** And then he goes on say, **“Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek...the profit which increases to your account...I have received everything in full and have an abundance; [and] I am amply supplied.”**

**(Philippians 4:17-18a)** In other words, “I have gone from need, I have gone from hunger, and I have gone to having everything that I need right now.”

Not that he’s in great prosperity. Prosperity is very dangerous and it causes you to think of God as only a “sugar-daddy, ‘to make life just wonderful and rich and luxurious.’” Or it causes you then to forget God and to start trusting in what you have and to get preoccupied with having it and keeping it and enjoying it, instead of having time for God. Well, as we look at this I want to take you to 2 Timothy, chapter 3. And I want to take you to 2 Timothy, chapter 3, because I want you to understand something about suffering.

Suffering is not always just being beaten for Jesus Christ. Suffering can take on many, many different forms. But in 2 Timothy, chapter 3 he lets his son, Timothy, know in his final epistle to him that he has followed Paul and he has followed Paul in many ways. He has been an example to Paul. Now look at Paul’s example. In ah, 2 Timothy, chapter 3, he says, **“Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance.”** (2

**Timothy 3:10)** Perseverance means that you don’t quit. Perseverance means you “hangeth thou in there, O baby.” All right, **“persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium...at Lystra,”**

and this is when Timothy was traveling with him and he saw these things that he went through. **“What persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! Indeed,”** listen carefully, **“all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”** (2 Timothy 3:11-12) We will be persecuted and we will go through trials. I want to take you to Romans, chapter 8, and this is where Paul is writing to the church at Rome and little does he dream that the way he is going to see them is by going as a prisoner to Rome. But in Romans, chapter 8 this is what he says in verse 35: **“Who**

**will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or**

persecution, or famine?” In other words, going hungry. **“Or nakedness,”** not having a lot of clothes, **“or peril,”** danger, **“or sword.”** He says, **“Just as it is written, ‘For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We [are] considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.” (Romans 8:35-37)** Now watch. [“Paul can do all things through Christ who strengthens him.”] (Paraphrase, Philippians 4:13) He says, **“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present,”** things falling apart, things broken, things not working, **“nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)** O Beloved, if you’re in need, if things are falling apart, don’t think it’s because God doesn’t love you anymore, or because God’s not on your side. Oh no, this is a test, a test of your faith. This is an opportunity for you, like Paul, to learn to be content. Whether you have an abundance or whether you have great need, you learn to be content because you allow Christ to infuse His strength in you. In other words, there’s not anything that you cannot handle. There’s not anything that you cannot bear. And he tells you in Hebrews, [“that He will never leave you. He will never forsake you, so that you can boldly say, ‘the Lord is my helper; I will not fear what man shall do to me.’”] O Beloved, be content.