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November 22, 2009

## LESSON FROM THE PILGRIMS

### Philippians 4:12-13

Philippians supported Paul and he was grateful (v10)  
He is not saying this to get more money from them (v11). He is totally content with whatever his Father provides.  
He has experienced hardship and abundance. He has learned that true contentment is totally independent of circumstances (v12).  
He can be content in all circumstances because of Christ (v13).

See this through whole chapter:

1. Rejoice **in the Lord** (v4)
2. Do not be anxious, but present your needs **to God** with **thanksgiving** and **His peace** will guard your heart and mind (v6-7)
3. Be content **in Christ** (v11-14).

A profound example of this is in the history of the pilgrims who settled in Plymouth Bay in America in 1620.  
Our culture has deconstructed Thanksgiving because it is profoundly Christian.

Consider the broader history to see it as an illustration of Phil 4:12-13.

10 examples of trials that would shout, Why should we give thanks?!

1. Their persecution for their faith in England
2. Their difficulty in escaping from England
3. Their difficulties in Holland
4. Their difficulties in leaving England for New World
5. Their difficulties on the trip across the Atlantic
6. Their difficulties in finding a place to settle

7. The difficulties of the first winter (1621)  
Squanto a mixed blessing  
THANKSGIVING after a good harvest in fall of 1621!

8. More mouths to feed! And no more provisions

9. The trials of Thomas Watson and his ruffians

10. The 1623 drought—and dramatic answer to prayer  
Thanksgiving Day of 1623  
Last of extreme hunger

Their children became more prosperous: had “plenty”  
Religion begat prosperity, and the daughter devoured the mother.

They thrived more spiritually when in “want”.  
So often the case with us

Phil 4:19: my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.  
Spiritual needs are paramount: salvation  
Physical needs are the out flowing of His mercies.

What disturbs *your* thanks today?

What is robbing you of contentment? What do you complain about regarding this coming week?

Consider the pilgrims. Consider Paul.

Consider Christ.

Rejoice **in the Lord**. Present your needs **to God with thanksgiving**. Be content **in Christ** because He is ALL you need (Christ past, Christ present, Christ future).

Give thanks this week whatever your circumstances because you also have learned that your contentment is in Christ.