

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

## PHILIPPIANS

### STUDY #8: Paul's Confidence

#### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS ~ BIBLE STUDY METHODS ~

#### **STUDY THE MEANING OF KEY WORDS**

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, and each word is inspired by God. 2 Tim 3:16-17 An Exhaustive Concordance lists every verse where each word in the Bible is used. Studying the same word (i.e., the Greek word *agape*) in various contexts gives a fuller understanding of its meaning. Books like *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* give excellent historical, cultural and biblical insight into key words. Computer applications like Logos have excellent tools to quickly define words. On-line applications (<http://www.blueletterbible.org/>) are becoming more powerful and easily available for free. Laridian also makes several inexpensive yet powerful software programs that can reside on your smart phone without the need for an Internet connection. (May be difficult to use in a SCIF)

#### **INTRODUCTION**

What comes to your mind when you think of being content?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

##### **Read Philippians 4:10-13**

1. The Philippians had sent Epaphroditus (2:25) with a gift of money for Paul, perhaps to help his expenses for food and lodging while under house arrest in Rome. What is Paul's response? vs.10
2. Many people believe they can only be content once they've reached a certain level of economic prosperity. How does their view differ from Paul's secret of contentment?
3. The word *content* in Greek is *autarkeia*. This was used by Stoics to mean a state of mind in which a man was absolutely independent of all things and all people. They learned to need nothing and no one through abolishing all desire. How did Paul's view of contentment differ?
4. Does verse 13 only apply to contentment? Why or why not?
5. Why is it sometimes harder to live a balanced Christian life with "plenty" rather than in need?
6. Paul has been rebuking the Philippians and now is thanking them. He was not afraid to express his love for them as a disciplinarian nor as a receiver of gifts. As a leader, how have you been able to balance the role of authority and thankfulness?

##### **Read Philippians 4:14-23**

7. How were the Philippian believers a help both in the past and in the present? 2 Cor 8:1-5
8. What benefits does Paul expect these friends to receive from their giving?
9. According to 1 Chronicles 29: 10-14 what is the basis for all stewardship?
10. How can the promise in verse 19 encourage us to give to the needs of others?

#### **APPLICATION**

- To what extent have you learned the secret of contentment?
- How does your attitude about giving and receiving money compare to Paul's?