



ADVANCING  
THE  
GOSPEL

Philippians 4:10-23

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# Introduction

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- Paul closes out his letter to the Philippians by offering two great encouragements.
- First, he wants the believers to know that it is only in Christ that one can experience true contentment.
- Second, Paul commends the Philippians for their generosity and service to Paul, not for Paul's sake, but rather for Christ's.
- Paul wants the Philippians to see that it is all for Christ that the Church sacrifices and serves.

# Philippians 4:10-13

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# Thankful

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- Paul is thankful that the Philippian church has begun their support of him again. The word Paul uses in verse 10 is translated as revived.
- Paul borrowed this word from the horticultural practice of his time; it denotes plants and flowers “blooming again” (Ezekiel 17:24).
- Paul says the Philippian church has reignited their pursuit to sacrifice and serve Paul in tangible ways.
- The church is practicing what Paul has been preaching to them through his letter.

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# Service

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- Paul starts in verse 11 making sure the Philippians know that it's not because of their financial assistance that Paul rejoices.
- Paul says he's learned the secret to lifelong joy: Christ. The secret to having joy in every circumstance is knowing that Christ is enough.
- This occurrence of "I have learned the secret" is found only here in the New Testament. "
- It was a Greek word, a technical term in the Hellenistic mystery religions for being initiated into the mysteries by going through sacred rituals.

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# Service

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- Paul was not looking to others to complete his need or his joy. Paul learned to keep his focus on Christ.
- Good gifts and financial provision must never divert the focus away from the Giver.
- Christ-Centered contentment, contentment that rises above circumstances, can't be learned through self-discipline.
- Rather, it comes through knowing that Christ is truly satisfying, no matter what earthly circumstances scream.

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# Service

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- Paul can be brought low or he can soar on the heights, yet his joy and focus never change. He's offering the spectrum of life while saying no matter where he falls, his joy remains because Christ remains.
- Having Christ and being found in Him is worth more than anything else.
- This is the active pursuit of the Christian life.
- When this is achieved, Christ works in His followers to spread that joy and advance the Gospel that says Christ is the source of contentment.

# Philippians 4:14-16



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# Sacrifice

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- The Philippian church sacrificed greatly for Paul.
- Paul commends the act of giving, not necessarily the gift itself. Paul orients their focus heavenward.
- He wants them to know that the act of giving is the very thing Christ calls Christians to, just as he wrote in the early section of chapter 2.
- Commending the act of giving directs the attention to Christ, and does not draw attention to the gift itself because Christ is the Gift that is worth more than all else.

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# Sacrifice

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- Notice that the Philippians continued their support of Paul even when other churches failed to do so (verse 15).
- Their giving truly advanced the Gospel without barriers in the sense that their support of Paul made it so that new converts didn't have to.
- The Philippians knew it would be easier for someone to hear the Gospel message and respond if they knew money was not attached to their decision.

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# Sacrifice

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- Paul remembers their service to him with joy and thankfulness.
- Paul commends their sacrifice and their act of giving because it follows his own example.
- Paul has poured out his life for the sake of the Gospel, and he is proud that those he has used his life to serve are following his example, but more importantly, they are following the example of Christ.

# Philippians 4:17-23

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# Sacrificing for Others

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- Paul reiterates that he isn't seeking gifts from the Philippians.
- He wanted their heavenly accounts to swell with abundance (verse 17).
- This is the spiritual nature that Paul wants the Philippians to see.
- He wants them focused on the Christlike purpose in sacrificing for others.
- Paul didn't want them to focus on whether their gifts made Paul happy.
- He wanted them to see that their gifts pleased the Lord.

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# Sacrificing for Others

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- Paul assures the Philippians that God will supply their needs based on their example of sacrificial giving (verse 19).
- Paul does this to show them that any reward one may seek by giving unto the Lord will come from the Lord.
- Paul continues to divert their focus heavenward.
- Paul confirms that God will take care of them and that their example is pleasing to Him.

Application:

Contentment in Every Circumstance

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# What Contentment Is Not

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- Contentment is not complacency.
- Contentment is not ignorance.
- Contentment is not inconsiderate.
- Contentment is not isolated escapism.
- Contentment is not based on circumstances.
- Contentment is not based on material wealth.



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# What Contentment Is

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- Contentment is abiding calm and peace.
- Contentment is trust in the midst of the storm and battles in life.
- Contentment is joy in the midst of fear and danger.
- Contentment is calm in the midst of financial challenges.
- Contentment is grace in the midst of grief.
- Contentment is peace in whatever circumstances you experience.

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# Not Circumstances

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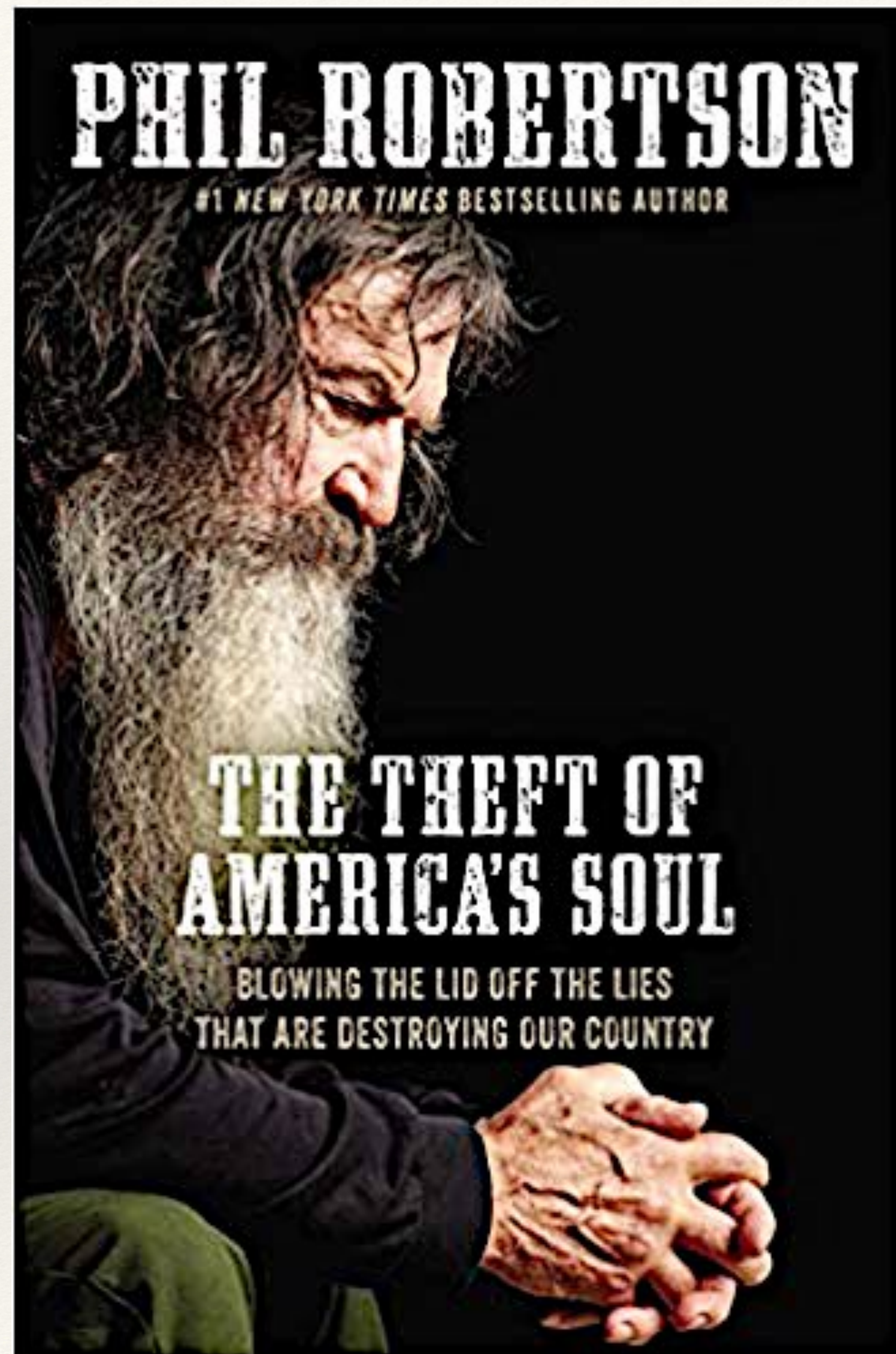
Paul had “far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.”

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# Be Thankful

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- Be thankful for your alarm - it means you are alive.
- Be thankful for car repairs - it means you don't have to walk to church.
- Be thankful for laundry - it means you have clothes to wear.
- Be thankful for your energy bill - it means you aren't too hot or cold.
- Be thankful for taxes - it means you are employed.
- Be thankful for text messages - it mean you have friends.
- Be thankful for tired muscles - it means you have been productive.



## The Ten Lies Destroying Our Country

1. God is dead.
2. There is no Devil.
3. Truth is relative.
4. God did not create life.
5. Sex is for self-gratification.
6. Virtue is outdated.
7. Laws can be ignored or changed if they are inconvenient.
8. Unity is not possible.
9. Church participation and day-to-day life should be kept separate.
10. Christians should shut their traps.