

## INTRODUCTION

We live with a generation of people who feel entitled. These people believe that just because they are a part of a very rich society, that society should be responsible for their financial success. Though misdirected, this generation didn't dream up this concept in a vacuum. Societies all over the world in this generation and past generations have attempted to use this way of thinking to sway others into believing that it is right to have equal provision for all, despite the level of effort of the individual. The Bible speaks against this philosophy in:

### **2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NKJV)**

**<sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.** Praise God the entitled people in our country are young, few and still teachable. The real issue for the majority of Christians in our society today goes beyond that. We have to be careful in all our getting not to base our life's worth on the physical things we have or don't have and to be content in whatever financial state we are in. The Apostle Paul exemplifies this way of life in our text this week.

### **Philippians 4:10-13 (NKJV)**

**<sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.**  
**<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:**  
**<sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**  
**<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

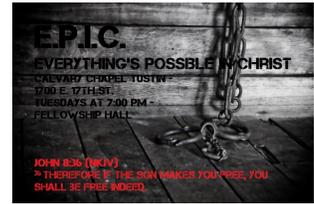
Hurricane Harvey has devastated the city of Houston and surrounding area. People are doing without the basic needs of life; water and food. They are learning how to survive after the devastation this hurricane has left in its wake. There are several ways we can help. There is no lack of opportunity for us to help those in need. We must be careful that we give to reputable organizations so that what we do give will reach those in need. I know the people of Houston are as humbly appreciative of the things that are provided them as Paul was for the gift that the Philippians gave him.

The Apostle doesn't want the Philippian church to feel badly about the timeliness of their gift. He wants to let them know he understands their situation and that no matter when he received the gift it was right on time.

We serve an on time God. He knows what we need before we ask and is able to provide. He is still Jehovah- Jireh, despite what our current situation looks like. **Ephesians 3:20-21 (NKJV)** says:

**<sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,**

**<sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**



**11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:  
12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**

Being content is not the natural state of the flesh, Amen? We have to put our flesh under our spiritual control if we're to be content. Content means to be self-sufficient and dependent on others. Paul is letting the church know that he is self-sufficient in everything but Christ. Being content is not living in a state of "what will be, will be" and sit back and take it. In other words, it's alright to try and improve your situation, just don't let the end result consume you. We should also keep "things" in the proper perspective.

The Bible says in **Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**

**33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. If we seek the eternal first, the temporal things will come. God doesn't want us to worry ourselves sick because we don't have things we want. Let's read the introduction to Matt. 6:33 by starting a verse 25.

The (B. Barton, 1995) *Life Application Bible Commentary* writers give a five point program on how to be content.

- Remember that everything belongs to God. What we have is a gift from him.
- Be thankful for what we have, not coveting what others have.
- Ask for wisdom to use wisely what we have.
- Pray for grace to let go of the desire for what we don't have.
- Trust in God to meet our needs.

If you want to know more about how God wants us to deal with contentment, check out **1 Tim. 6:6-10**.

**13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

Finally Paul wants us to recognize who gives us the strength and ability to be content in the lean times. We can't do this alone. We need the divine presence of God and to stay focused on Him and others rather than ourselves in the best of times and in the worst of times.