

## **“What Am I Going To Do?”** **Philippians 4:10-13**

During the years I have served as a minister, many people – having difficulties in life – have asked me: “Preacher, what am I going to do?” That question has come from people of all ages. The fact is that there are times when we feel that life is getting us down – clouding our thinking, suppressing our motivation, killing our spirit, making us feel that we just do not know what to do anymore.

We are not alone in having those strong feelings of hopelessness. Great people in our history have also experienced these feelings. With all that he faced in his life, the Apostle Paul no doubt knew these strong human emotions. But also, thank God, during the course of life Paul had learned some lessons – some spiritual truths – which served him well – lessons which we need to learn and apply to our lives today.

Some of these great lessons are shared with us in Philippians 4:10-13 where Paul writes:

For I have learned in whatever state I am, therewith to be content. I know how to be abased and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things. I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- I. Paul had learned to live above the circumstances of life. “I have learned in whatever state I am in to be content.” When Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians, he was in dire circumstances. He was under house arrest in Rome.

Dr. E. Stanley Jones tells of a famous statue in Mexico by Jesus Garcia, entitled IN SPITE OF. The sculptor lost his right arm in the midst of his work and he was right handed. He was so determined to finish that work of art that he learned to carve with his left hand. He did finish the job and perhaps had a better piece of work had the adverse circumstances of life not come upon him. A distinct quality of life went into that statue. And so the statue was given the title IN SPITE OF.

The circumstances of life do not have to get us down. Paul and others learned to live above them. And so can we!

- II. Paul learned that human power alone is not enough to enable us to face life victoriously.

The Apostle Paul had many talents and abilities. He was probably one of the smartest, best educated men of his day. But when he depended solely on his own talents and abilities he went astray and spent his life persecuting the early Christians. But after he met Christ on that Damascus road, his life was transformed. He learned to use his talents and abilities but with them all under the control of Jesus Christ, his Savior and Lord.

- III. Paul learned that he could do all things through Christ. When he was rightly related to God through faith in Christ and living in the center of God's will, Paul knew that Christ would always see him through. And Paul was not disappointed. Christ saw him through. Likewise Christ will see us through!

One Sunday night while serving as pastor of Liberty Baptist Church near Thomasville, NC, I preached a life situation sermon which stressed how Almighty God through Christ sustains and guides our lives when we have a right personal relationship with Christ and make God's will our own. After the service a lady said: "I appreciate that message. It helped me to see in a fresh way that because I have Christ in my heart and life I have all I need." That lady got the message. Only in Christ and in vital personal relationship with Him is there adequate power to face life and to be more than a conquerer.

William Barclay tells about a notice to workers in a certain textile mill which said: "If your threads get tangled, send for the foreman." One day a very diligent worker got her threads tangled. She tried to untangle them but only made them worse. With the mess complete, she sent for the foreman. He came, saw the mess and asked: "Why did you not send for me?" And the lady replied: "I did my best." And the foreman said: "Remember that doing your best is sending for me."

Is your life all tangled up? Are you wondering "What am I going to do?" If so, SEND FOR JESUS.

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