

Week 10 Philippians 4.10-13, 4.14-23

*The Hidden Secret*

*Closing Thanks and Greetings*

- I. Prayer
- II. Opening Question
  - a. What would you say is necessary for contentment?
- III. Read N.T. Wright Commentary p.132-137
- IV. Scan Aesthetic Commentary p.223-249
- V. Discussion Questions
  - a. With whom have you entered or with whom could you enter into a partnership in suffering (v.14)?
  - b. What motivates you to do this?
  - c. How had the Philippians turned out to be different from other churches Paul had started (vv. 15-16)?
  - d. What practical help does this Scripture passage offer on being more grateful to God?
  - e. According to Paul, what blessing comes from sacrificial giving (vv. 18-19)?
  - f. In verse 19 Paul made the Philippians a promise, not from himself but from God. How has that promise proved true for you?
  - g. What practical help does this Scripture passage offer on being more grateful to God?
  - h. Are you content? Why/why not?
  - i. If you had enough money to buy one amazing thing, what would you buy? How much money would it take? How would your life be different because you bought it?
  - j. If you had enough money to dramatically help one person, who would you help, and how much money would it take? How would your life be different because of your gift?
  - k. Which costs more—Your answer to question 1 or your answer to question 2? Which answer comes closer to an expression of God's shalom?
  - l. When you set aside the money for your tithe/offering, is it one of the first things you do with your money or one of the last? Why?
  - m. How do your personal choices regarding money reflect or impact your contentment at the moment and your level of trust in God for the future?
  - n. What do you think of when you hear the word "saint?" How does it make you feel to be called a "saint?"
  - o. What specific difference does it make if our faith is based on the commitment we make to love and serve God or if our faith relies on the commitment God has made to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
  - p. Who in your life needs to know the Good News about Jesus Christ? How can God use you to share the truth of God's love for them? Does imitating Christ-like humility play a part?
  - q. How would you define God's shalom? What importance does that have in your life?
  - r. How would you define agape? How does this understanding define you?
  - s. How would you define joy? What is God leading you to do about it?