

## **TRUE JOY**

Regardless of your situation, God will give you true joy

*(Philippians 4:10-13) I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last you have renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me, but lacked the opportunity to show it. I don't say this out of need [we'll look in a moment at how ironic that statement is], for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content - whether well-fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

### **1. A Word About CIRCUMSTANCES**

- A. We're not talking about an unpleasant "event"
- B. We're talking about a long-term difficult circumstance
- C. Difficulties are not an indication that God is unhappy with us
- D. God uses difficult circumstances to bring about great good (Romans 8:28)

### **2. A Word About CONTENTMENT**

*(11) I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.*

*(12) In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content.*

- A. He was hurting.
- B. He was content.
- C. Real contentment!

### **3. A Word About CHANGING**

- A. Something that has to be "learned"
- B. We have to change the way we "respond"
  - STOP being consumed with our circumstance
  - BEGIN cultivating a closer walk with Jesus.