**Going deeper in Philippians 4:10-13**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Apostle Paul has been encouraging the church in Philippi to live lives that reflect the LORD that they and we follow. He tells them to focus on what is true, noble, just, pure and things that are worthy of praise. He turns to the following passage to thank them while setting an example of being content in all circumstances.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

I really rejoiced in the LORD that your thoughtful care for me was re-ignited. Not that you ever quit thinking about me and praying for me. You just did not have the chance to show it. I am not saying this because of my own personal sense of need because I have learned to be content whatever my situation. I know how to get along in humble circumstances and to live in prosperity. I have learned the secret of being content whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. The Apostle Paul is in a prison cell probably in Rome. Despite his circumstances he is rejoicing. Why? What role do the people of the church play in his rejoicing?

2. Who are people in your life that need his kind of joy?

3. Paul describes himself as content. The Greek word used for content is ‘autarkes’ which means a sufficiency that is independent of circumstances. What is the secret of his contentment?

3. Have you ever been in a situation where you did not know how things were going to turn out, but the LORD gave you a sense of peace? What was that like? If you are in a small group share those experiences with one another.

4. In the final verse the Apostle Paul trusts that the LORD will provide strength for all the circumstances that he faces. In a prison cell in Rome what would have been “all things” for him? What are “all things” for you right now?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Prayerfully thank the LORD that He will give you the strength for all that you will face in your day.

\*Ask Him to help you trust in Him and the power of the Holy Spirit in “all things.”

\*Ask the LORD Jesus to show you someone that needs to know His power in “all things.”

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Apostle Paul faces some difficult circumstances, but He trusts that the LORD of all will provide strength for all the things that he will face. This week will you trust in the LORD’s strength in all that you face? Will you share that message with others that need to know it?