

God's Secret to Financial Happiness Philippians 4:10-19

Introduction:

- God holds the secret to financial happiness, but this financial happiness
 1. Cannot be gained by r_____ about it;
 2. Cannot be gained by u_____ it;
 3. Can only be gained by l_____ it.
- Note in verse 12 the phrase *I have learned the s_____*
(the NKJV and the KJV wrongly omit the word secret)
 1. The Greek word was used by the pagan m_____ religions to describe their initiation rites.
 2. The longer one was in the mystery religion, the more “mysteries” were revealed to them.
 3. Paul learned this secret in experience:
 - a. He was under house arrest c_____ to Roman guards.
 - b. He had to depend upon friends, churches, etc for his daily n_____ (vv. 16,18)
 - c. This secret to financial happiness is revealed to all Christians

We must learn to handle our prosperity – contentment vs g_____

- The key word in verse 11 is the word c_____
 1. When Paul received an abundance
 - a. He did not s_____ it all that day for himself
 - b. He sent a messenger to bring what he n_____ for that day.
 2. Greed is the enemy of contentment; if you always desire m_____, you will never be satisfied.
- 90% of people living in our country do not handle prosperity properly. Here are the trends:
 1. Living paycheck to paycheck – they s_____ ALL their money.
 2. The more one makes, the more one a_____.
- How are believers in Christ supposed to handle their prosperity?
 1. Recognize that God p_____ it (Ps 24:1; 1Tim 6:17) – beware of pride (I did it).
 2. Express t_____ to God for the abundance – beware of greed (I want more)
 3. Use the abundance to meet n_____ FIRST (Phil 4:19). – God never promises to supply our wants.
 4. Decide how much to give to G_____ (Phil 4:18; Acts 28:30,31) – this is termed a sacrifice.

We must learn to handle our predicaments – contentment vs

r _____

- Paul states that he had to learn how to get along with h _____ means (v. 12).
 1. There were days that he had very little food – he had to learn the secret of going h _____ (v. 12)
 2. He did not spend his time in prison just waiting for gifts. Verse 17 states that he did not s _____ the gift.
 3. He did not become r _____ if he had very little.
- Trends in the USA
 1. When income drops, people strive to keep the s _____ lifestyle.
 2. When income drops, people sometimes sacrifice their n _____ to keep their luxuries.
- How are believers in Christ supposed to handle financial predicaments?
 1. Recognize that God will always supply our n _____ (Phil 4:19)
 2. Eliminate every l _____ until there is enough to cover the needs.
 3. We must never c _____ ourselves with others (never criticize the generosity of God).
 4. We must never think that we d _____ anyone's help (the only thing we deserve are the wages of sin).
 5. Let the Lord r _____ your life, not your finances.

Conclusion:

The secret to financial happiness is not knowing these principles but l _____ them.