

# ONWORD

A weekly publication of the Enterprise Church of Christ

## Surviving Financial Stress

2/4 - Rock Bottom (Luke 15:11-32)  
2/11 - That's My Job (Mt. 25:14-30)  
**2/18 - For Richer, For Poorer (Phil. 4:10-19)**  
2/25 - Lean on Me (Matt. 6:19-34)  
3/4 - Oil in the Cupboard (II Kings 4:1-7)  
3/18 - Another Macedonian Call (II Cor. 8 & 9)  
3/25 - Riches and Glory (I Tim. 6)

### Join us:

#### Sundays

Bible class, 9 am  
Morning worship, 10 am  
Evening worship, 5:30 pm

#### Wednesdays

Midweek Bible study, 7 pm

### Contact us:

1005 CR 14, Myrtle, MS 38650  
662-534-9525  
Web: EnterpriseChurch.org  
Twitter: @EnterpriseCOC  
Facebook & Instagram:  
enterprisechurchofchrist

## Surviving Financial Stress: For Richer, For Poorer

By Jay Tidwell

Paul wouldn't close his letter to the church at Philippi without thanking them for their financial contributions for his welfare while he was imprisoned. He was also careful to temper his words of appreciation with a clarification that he was not worried if any support should not have been provided: *"I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Phil. 4:11-13). This passage discloses the third and perhaps most critical spiritual concept for coping with financial stress: Trusting God in all things. The remainder of our topics in this series expands upon this practice.

### Happy with What we Have

Paul described his mindset as one of being content (v. 11). The Greek word in this passage is *autarkes* (αὐτάρκης), meaning "sufficient in oneself" (autos, "self...", "self-sufficient, adequate, needing no assistance")(Vines Expos. Dict.). A similar sentiment is described in other texts:

## Extra Credit: Covetousness

Like day is to night, contentment and covetousness are polar opposites and unable to coexist. Consider how Scripture addresses covetousness:

*“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”* (Exodus 20:17, ESV).

*“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”* (Col. 3:5, KJV).

*“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (I Tim. 6:10).

*“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world”* (II Tim. 4:10).

*“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency [contentment] in all things, may abound to every good work”* (2 Cor. 9:8).

*“But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content”* (I Tim. 6:6-8).

*“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”* (Heb. 13:5).

### School of Hard Knocks

Paul explained that he had “learned” to be content (v. 11), from *manthano*, “to learn by practice or experience, acquire a custom or habit” (Mounce). Paul observed that having more or less is not in itself determinative of the joy of life (v. 12). “Contentment is really greater than riches, for ‘if contentment does not produce riches, it achieves the same object by banishing the desire for them.’ ‘It is a blessed secret when the believer learns how to carry a high head with an empty stomach, an upright look with an empty pocket, a happy heart with an unpaid salary, joy in God when men are faithless.’” (Believer’s Comm.)

### Christ-Sufficiency

Paul’s feeling of sufficiency did not come from a self-willed, Stoic-like spirit, but from trusting in Christ (v. 13). “Contentment is rooted in the eternal God rather than in the temporal self... Paul is sufficient and content not because he is independent but because he is totally dependent — upon Christ.” (Preach the Word Comm.). Jesus provides true riches (II Cor. 8:9).