Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (RSV) The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a *cheerful giver.* ⁸ *And God is able to provide you with every* blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written, He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; 12 for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Under the test of this service, you will glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the gospel of Christ, and by the generosity of *your contribution for them and for all others;* ¹⁴ *while they long* for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

- Grace, and its many fruits

Philippians 4:20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. ²¹ Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send greetings.

Finding Joy in Lean Times

Philippians: Finding Joy in Hard Times *Philippians 4:10-23;* December 2, 2018

■ Gratitude, generosity and contentment

Proverbs 11:24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. ²⁵ A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Paul's other-centeredness on display

■ Philippians 4:10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

■ Philippians 4:11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

²² All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be

Learning contentment

Contentment is knowing I have everything I _____for my present happiness.

What is the difference between a need and a desire?

1 Timothy 6:6 (RSV) There is great gain in godliness with contentment; ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world; ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

Philippians 4:12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

2 Corinthians 11:27 (RSV) ... in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Generosity as investment

Philippians 4:14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

Philippians 4:15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;

Philippians 4:16 ... for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

Philippians 4:17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.

Generosity of person

Philippians 4:18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.