

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



Self-Sufficiency

Is there Room for God in Your Life?



Is there Room for God in Your Life?

- **Hebrews 13:5** Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”
- “Self-sufficiency is a terrible place to be, because it is the worst deceit you can bring on yourself. You need God. You need God every minute of your life.” (Dr. Joseph Stowell)



Is there Room for God in Your Life?

- **2 Corinthians 3:5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,
- **Philippians 4:10** But **I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again**; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. **11** Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: **12** I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13** **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**



Dangers of the Comfortable Life

- *The Danger of Forgetting God, Deut 8:11-20.*
- **Deut. 8:11** “Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,
- **Deut. 8:14** when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;
- **Deut. 8:17** then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’



Dangers of the Comfortable Life

Deut. 8:18 “And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. **19** Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. **20** As the nations which the Lord destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.



Dangers of the Comfortable Life

- *Can lose fear of God in times of abundance Psa 106:6-15, 19-21.*
- **Psalm 106:12** Then they believed His words; They sang His praise. **13** They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, **14** But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert.
- **19** They made a calf in Horeb, And worshiped the molded image. **20** Thus they changed their glory Into the image of an ox that eats grass. **21** They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt,



Dangers of the Comfortable Life

- *Stubborn, unthankful hearts develop toward God, Psa 78:5-11.*
- **5** For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; **6** That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, **7** That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments; **8** And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.
- **9** The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle. **10** They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law, **11** And forgot His works And His wonders that He had shown them.



Dangers of the Comfortable Life

- *The Danger of Trusting in Self and in Material Things*, Lk 12:15-21
- 15 And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”
- Our ability to learn contentment comes from the challenges of both lack and prosperity,



Dangers of the Comfortable Life

1 Timothy 6

6 Now 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 clothing, with these we shall be content.

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.



Dangers of the Comfortable Life

- *The Danger of Self-Indulgence*
- **2 Samuel 11:2** Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold
- *Forgetting God instead of turning to God*
- **Daniel 4:30** The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"



Dangers of the Comfortable Life

- **Daniel 5: 20** But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. **21** Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses.



We are Sufficient Only In God, Because God Alone is Sufficient

- *Sin Takes Us to a Place Where We Need God*
- **Colossians 1:19** For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. **21** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled **22** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—



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- **Acts 4:12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
- **1 Corinthians 15:55** “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” **56** The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



We are Sufficient Only In God, Because God Alone is Sufficient

- *Unbelief is a mark of self-sufficiency*
- **Psalms 78:21** Therefore the Lord heard this and was furious; So a fire was kindled against Jacob, And anger also came up against Israel, **22** Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation.
- *Unbelief by rejecting His plan of salvation*



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Mark 10

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?”

18 So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

19 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’”

20 And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.”

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.



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- *Unbelief - By rejecting our need to obey God to be saved by His grace*
- **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- **Hebrews 5:8** though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. **9** And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him



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Deut 9

4 “Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, ‘Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land’; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you.

5 It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

6 Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.

7 “Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.



We are Sufficient Only In God, Because God Alone is Sufficient

- *Suffering Takes Us to a Place Where We Need God*
- **Philippians 1:29** For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake
- **1 Peter 4:12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; **13** but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.



We are Sufficient Only In God, Because God Alone is Sufficient

- *Suffering Takes Us to a Place Where We Need God*
- When life brings its share of suffering and sorrow, Eccl 3:1-8 (4)
- **James 5:10** My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.



We are Sufficient Only In God, Because God Alone is Sufficient

- *Suffering keeps us humble and trusting in God*
- **2 Corinthians 12:7** And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. **8** Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. **9** And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.



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- *Suffering teaches us to be empathetic toward others when they suffer*
- **1 John 3:16** By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?



We are Sufficient Only In God, Because God Alone is Sufficient

- *Not Knowing Where to Turn Takes Us to a Place Where We Need God*
- **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
- *God’s word is a complete guide; we must keep it*
- **Psalms 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
106 I have sworn and confirmed That I will keep Your righteous judgments.
- **Colossians 2:2** that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.



Is there Room for God in Your Life?

- *“Consider the work of God; For who can make straight what He has made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing that will come after him.” (Eccl 7:13-14)*
- **2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work
- **2 Corinthians 1:6** Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. **7** And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.



Is there Room for God in Your Life?

Psalms 119

1 Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

2 Why should the Gentiles say, “So where is their God?”

3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

