

3) When do you find it hard to live out Paul's secret and when are you able to do it well?

4) What tangible, practical thing can you do to encourage yourself to practice Paul's secret?

5) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Giving is a spiritual action. It affects the spiritual state of the world around us. It also affects the spiritual state of our souls. Giving is one of the tools in our toolbox as Christians that help us to be content in any and all circumstances. Try living without giving and you'll soon find yourself tossed and turned by the swirling world around you."

6) Going back to question one, spend some time praying for each other, the way Paul prayed for the Philippians. Look at chapter 1, verses 9-11 if you need some direction.

Parting Thought: We've finished Philippians. There are other letters that Paul writes in dire circumstances. Tim Keller points out that when you read these letters, Paul never prays for the government officials to change their course of action. He doesn't pray for a change of circumstances. Rather he prays that the hearts, minds, and souls of Christians will be changed - that they will absorb more and more the knowledge of Christ and the love of Christ. That's a fascinating and challenging thought as we think about our lives and our prayers.