

## A SECRET TO BEING THANKFUL

### Philippians 4:11-13; Psalm 92:1

**Introduction:** What if you woke up in the morning rich beyond your wildest dreams? Nothing is wrong with financial wealth and many use their wealth generously. Face it, most of us dream of being wealthy. "If I had a zillion dollars I'd do this....or that...." However, God's ideas of riches are different and far better than any of ours.

It's thanksgiving season and we are supposed to be thankful - *Psalm 92:1*. The depth of each person's thankfulness is a good indicator of how much he/she really appreciates him/herself, his/her loved ones, his/her blessings in life and his/her prospects for eternity.

Reasons for being thankful can change. Paul the Apostle, known first as Saul, once loved to persecute Christians but after becoming one, himself, he had different reasons to be thankful. (*Text*).

### I. PAUL DISCOVERED HOW TO BE THANKFUL, NO MATTER WHAT

1. *"...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, to be content..."*
2. "Contentment" is missing today.
  - Single people want to get married.
  - Married people want to be single again.
  - People with children often wish they were childless.
  - Childless people want children.
  - Poor people want to be rich.
  - Frequently rich people are so unhappy that they take their own lives.
3. Lack of contentment is attested by the high level of alcoholism, drug addiction, immorality, crime, violence, adultery, divorces, all sorts of abuse, people living together but not married, etc.
4. A psychiatrist asked a man, "what is your goal in life?" and the man asked back, "what do you mean by that?" The psychiatrist answered, "well....what do you want out of life?" The man answered, "more of the same." The psychiatrist replied, "what do you mean by that?" "Well, answered the man, I am satisfied with life the way it is - a great wife, two marvelous children, good friends. I really don't need anything else - but if I must have more, I'd want more of what I have now, more time with my wife, my children, my friends. There is nothing I don't have that I want."
  - By the way the contented man was confined to a wheelchair.
5. What a sad commentary on most of us. This man in a wheelchair knew Paul's secret for being thankful - "to be content in any and all circumstances.
6. Paul believed in God and that God was interested in him.
7. Paul knew that God was sovereign and that God could do anything that He (God) wanted to, no matter what.

8. Paul knew that God was limitless.
  - God had opened prison doors and He opens doors of life.
  - Whatever God did would ultimately be in Paul's best interests.
  - ***Romans 8:38-39***
9. Before Paul met Jesus Christ, he thought of God only as a lawmaker but after meeting Jesus Christ, Paul found that God is also a law keeper, a God of love and that love was so great that He (God) gave His Son for Paul and everyone else who would believe in Him.
10. When Paul believed in Jesus and accepted Him, he had taken the FIRST step in discovering the SECRET TO BEING THANKFUL.
11. Paul learned to accept life as it really was. To have dreams but not to let the dreams overcome him.
12. The ability to accept life as it really is comes when we realize that God knows exactly where we are and that God has a plan for us.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Have you discovered Paul's secret to being thankful? Being content as you are?
2. Are you at peace with God through Jesus Christ?
3. Being a Christian is all the reason one needs to be thankful and then realizing that God cared for us by sending His Son, Jesus.
4. YOU CAN be at peace and be thankful before leaving this room, this can be the greatest Thanksgiving you have ever had - a genuine, authentic, real THANKSGIVING.