

**November 7, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Phil 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. (NIV)*

I would dare say that Paul would be an authority on being in need and having plenty. No doubt as one of the leaders of the Pharisees, he would have experienced the prestige and power that was afforded him. And yet, when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was literally changed from the inside out. He then became an apostle for the Lord and put all of the former things behind him. There are many occasions that he was beaten, stoned, left for dead and imprisoned. Ultimately, he was put to death in Rome. But he shares with the church at Philippi and with us, this passage of the reality of full and abundant life. You see, real life doesn't depend on our surroundings or our state of economy, but instead on what or whom is in control.

I find it interesting that many people are up or down depending upon their circumstances. This is usually the case when those circumstances are the reason they are living. I remember someone sharing the conversation they had with someone who was usually 'down in the dumps.' They asked them how they were doing. The response was "I guess I'm doing okay under the circumstances." "What are you doing under them?" the friend asked? We must keep our eyes and hearts on the things that are most valuable in our spiritual walk. Paul had learned this lesson over the course of victories and defeats. He knew that in every situation, he was doing what he was supposed to be doing and that brought a contentment that he could never find in the things of this world. He finishes off his statement with this: *I can do all things through Christ, Who gives me my strength. Phil. 4:13 (NIV)*

**Dear LORD, we need Your help to stay focused on what really matters. We must keep our eyes on the prize. We must focus on You and the plans You have for us. Help us do so. In Jesus Name, Amen**