**Learning to Live with Problems**

**Philippians 4: 11-13**

**Introduction:**

A. Man who said he lost farm, family, etc. — then it got really bad the great depression hit.

B. Life is full of problems — Christians not excluded.

1. Some common to all humanity.

2. Some peculiar to Christians.

3. Some can be readily solved and eliminated.

4. Some stay with us through life.

a. Can allow them to defeat us — distract us from duties.

b. Or, can learn to live with them— with contentment. \*

C. Philippians is a handbook on how to live with certain problems.

**Discussion:**

**I. People Problems.**

A. Learn that all brethren are not alike. (1:15-18; 3:1-2; 3:17-19).

1. Do not let bad apples spoil thinking about all—become cynical.

2. Do not let good color thinking about all—become naive.

B. Learn to appreciate good brethren (1:3-7).

C. Learn to find and rejoice in any good done by insincere brethren. (1:12-18).

**II. Personal Problems.**

A. Learn to not take self too seriously. (2:3-11).

B. Learn to pray about problems. (4:4-7).

C. Learn to think properly during problems. (4:8-9).

**III. Perfection Problem.**

A. Learn to keep perfection as goal, yet accepting imperfection as present reality. (3:12-16)

B. Learn to always obey (move toward perfection) with pleasure. (2:12; 14).

**IV. Physical Problems.**

A. Learn to accept the temporal nature of physical things. (3:19-21)

B. Learn to put death in its proper perspective. (1:21-26).

**V. Prosperity Problems.**

A. Learn to be thankful for what you receive (4:10).

B. Learn to separate happiness from material prosperity. (4:11-13).

C. Learn to seek more than personal benefit in prosperity.

1. Means of blessing others (4:16-18)

2. Means of caring for others (cf. 1 Tim. 6:17-19)

**Conclusion:**

I. All have problems.

II. Christians have the Lord to help them live with problems. (4:13).