

# Learning to Live With Problems

Phil. 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).

### 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. 5:13)

## Conclusion:

- A. All have problems.
- B. Christians have Lord to help them live with problems. (4:13).