Be Joyful
Philippians 4:10-23

Into the Lesson:

Take some time to reread the entire book of Philippians. But not as a "timed event", read it as if you were hearing the Apostle as he was dictating to an amanuensis a heartfelt letter to a group that he cared deeply for. As you read be aware of the words or passages that point to the "why" and "how" for being Joyful.

Into the Word:

From the sermon and previous studies, list some of the reasons Paul had to be discontent.

For a further reminder read II Corinthians 11:16-23- How does this fit in with "the Secret" that Lane referred to?

Respond to Lane's statement, "…envy and contentment never go hand in hand".

How do we see this as a point of concern for Paul throughout this letter and the causes of disunity he is trying to overcome?

Respond to Lane's declaration (the "money" line of his sermon), "…the real secret of contentment is found in bowing my heart and mind to the will of God no matter the conditions…"

From Lane's sermon note "the Setting" and a reread Acts 16:11-16 what would have been the prevailing attitude or mood for this brand-new fellowship of believers?

How does the situation mentioned in 2:28 combined with Paul's incarceration indicate that the Apostle, like us, face real effort to "…workout the real truths of God's grace in action in our lives"?

Into Life:

What are some of the indications that the concepts of Contentment/Joy are somewhat alien to our present culture?

Or is it a matter of, "I'll be happy if you do things the way I want it"?

How would the "contentment on my terms" crowd respond to Lane's "Significant" truth that, "Contentment/Joy is grounded in our union with Jesus Christ"?

How does the reminder that Philippians 3:10-14 precedes 4:13 help us to endure the inevitable storms of life that we face?

How do we begin to translate the profound truths of this book to those who hold that "truth is subjective"?

How do we work together to translate it in our own lives?

How do we, "get about the business of knowing Christ better"?

"If I can and will face and do all things through Christ, my strength, by the grace of God, may we choose Jesus"