

6. Do you live in the “**here and now**” Why do you want everything to happen “**here and now**”? Do you think that the Lord tests your faith? Is the purpose of the believer to become conformed to the image of Christ? Please read Romans 8:18-39 and discuss.

7. Paul stated to the Philippians, “**your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus**”. Read Philippians 2:5-11 and discuss what specific character traits is significant for having contentment in Christ? What needs to happen in your life to see these characteristics lived out for Christ?

LIVING BELOW THE SURFACE

I. Living for the cause of Christ not Self.

- A. It's His plan—not “me and mine”.
- B. It's His timing—not “the here and now”.
- C. It's His right—not “your right”.

II. Living with the Attitude of Christ. (*Philippians 2:5-11*)

- A. Humility—not pride.
- B. Obedience—not defiance. (*Hebrews 5:8*)
- C. Sacrifice—not selfishness. (*Philippians 1:21; 3:7-11*)
- D. Satisfaction—not continual disappointment.

III. Living with the Contentment of Christ.

- A. It's learning through experience.
- B. It's learning to be adaptable.
- C. It's learning to be dependent.
- D. It's learning to be at peace with God.

Join us this week as we pray for
the country of Bolivia.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For the week of August 9, 2009

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. At the time that Paul was writing this letter to the Philippians, he was in prison. How would you feel if you were in prison? Would you rejoice in the Lord? Would you still continue to live for the cause of Christ? Explain.

2. Was Paul concerned only about the financial gift from the Philippians? Was that his motivation for joy? When was the last time you had genuine concern for your brother or sister in Christ? What did you do to demonstrate your love? (Phil. 4:10)

3. What can the “me and mine” syndrome do to your relationship with God? How would it affect your relationship with your spouse, child or good friend? Would dissension, bitterness and/or arrogance dominate the relationship?

4. Was that David's demise with Bathsheba? Did he claim property that was not given to him? What happened to his life following his act of sin? Read 2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51.

5. Whenever you go through a difficult time in your life, do you ever say, “This is not fair, I don't deserve this. I didn't sign up for this”? During Paul's ministry, did he have a *right* to share this attitude? (READ 2 COR. 11:16-33) Was Paul living for himself or Christ? How come Christians have a difficult time being content?