MAIN THOUGHT Every Christian should be able to say: I am GRATEFUL (10), I am CONTENT (11-12), I am CONFIDENT (13), I am MINDFUL (14-17), I am EQUIPPED (18), I am RICH (19-20), and I am CONNECTED (21-23).

I AM MINDFUL (14-17).

• You should thank people for sharing in your “troubles” (Gal. 6:2; Heb. 10:33). Some (the Corinthian church) had not yet learned this (2 Cor. 11:7-9).
• They were the model of RICH GIVING out of EXTREME POVERTY (2 Cor. 8:1-5).
• You should first GIVE YOURSELF to the Lord and then to causes (2 Cor. 8:5).
• Paul used commercial language (debit/credit; giving/receiving): they amply supplied his need and he fed them spiritually (1 Tim. 5:18).
• God promises to REMEMBER (Heb. 6:10) your INVESTMENTS (Matt. 6:19-21).

I AM EQUIPPED (18).

• There are many SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES (1 Pet. 2:5) required of you in addition to GIVING: (1) your BODY (Rom. 12:1-2); (2) your LIPS (Heb. 13:5); (3) GOOD WORKS (Heb. 13:6); and (4) LOST SOULS won for Christ (Rom. 15:16).
• God wants to work in you (2:13) to meet the needs (secretly – Matt. 6:2, 5, 16) of others (1 Cor. 16:17).

I AM RICH (19).

You meet my need . . . God will meet your need.
You met ONE need that I have . . . My God will meet ALL of your needs.
You gave out of your POVERTY . . . God will give out of His RICHES.

• True riches are SPIRITUAL (Eph. 1:3, 18; 3:16-20).
• God is RICH for He owns it ALL (Psa. 50:9-12; Hag. 2:8). He not only gives you all you have (1 Tim. 6:7) but even your ability to produce wealth (Deut. 8:18).

I AM CONNECTED (21-23).

• You are inter-connected to one another (31x in NT).
• We are to GREET (28x) one another by name (3 John 14).
• Because of Paul’s Roman imprisonment (1:13; Acts 25:10) the gospel had now come to Caesar’s household!
• But not NERO. He would commit suicide (AD 68) after beheading Paul (AD 67).
• CONSTANTINE (AD 272-337) – the first Roman Christian Emperor and the first of 82 Christian Kings and Queens of the Byzantine Empire (AD 330-1453).