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Place:

Date:

Event:

Theme: Bankrupt

Text: Phil. 4:12

Note: Must have been used for Outlook

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BANKRUPT!

I am standing in a courtroom. My accusers are all around me. Unless I pay, I can't get out. But I stand a debtor, absolutely insolvent!

How did it come about? It was so easy to go into those stores, take something, and sign the little charge slips. But the storekeepers put them in files, and they all have my signature on them -- too numerous to count.

The time has come now when I have to pay. The terrifying judge is the Law. The storekeepers have brought all the accusing little papers to the Prosecuting Attorney, my Conscience, who always agrees with the Law of God.

"See, you signed here!"

"Yes, I'm afraid I did."

Another says, "You signed here!" Everywhere I turn, I can see my signature. I have committed myself, and all these little papers are accusing me.

Everyone in court is gazing at me and my signatures. And every one of those signatures is mine. I am in for it!

Conscience says, "You became jealous and acted in a mean way." I have nowhere to look for escape. So I am forced to admit,

"Yes, I did."

"You failed morally."

"Yes." --And on and on!

When you buy, you have to pay. When you sin, you have to suffer -- if not physically, certainly mentally and spiritually. My Conscience tells me that, and God's Law confirms it to me.

Then, oh, the wonder of it! God Himself steps into the courtroom. He finds me there condemned, with nothing to plead.

He quietly gathers up the accusing papers from all sides and nails them to the cross on which He died. He took on Himself the guilt of all the charges proved against me. The list of the

-- I have met them in my country of Africa -- he is so thrilled that you can hardly believe him or believe your own eyes!

Jesus is all love for the unlovely. Jesus is all fulness for the empty. Jesus is all perfection for the imperfect. Jesus is all healing for the sick. All you need to do is to say to the Holy Spirit, "Oh, blessed Enlightener, just open my blind eyes!"

This was the excitement of Saint Paul when he said, "I am crucified with Christ" (Gal.2:20). Apart from Christ, I am dead and finished. With Christ, I am vibrating with life. But the life that I live is not mine. It is the life of Christ in and through me.

A saint is one who has learned that there is nothing in him, and that all is in Christ for him. He has learned to embrace Christ for every moment, in every aspect of his life.

Then, as you go around, people look at you and they scratch their heads and say, "We know what he was like, but he is no longer like that! What has happened?"

Circumstances are against you, and yet you are laughing. This is like what Paul said in Philippians 4:12: I have discovered the secret of living. I can live when things are difficult. I can live when things are easy. I am no longer a victim of circumstances.

That makes you independent of what happens, doesn't it? To be alive in Christ is the greatest thing in the world!