**Learning to be Content**

*Philippians 4:11-13*

**Introduction**

1. Contentment is something that most people seek. They want more and more and more, seeking until they attain enough.
2. Contentment is something that has to be learned.
3. It does not come naturally. It comes via experience, and learning from that experience.
4. Contentment is a mindset.
5. Independent of outward circumstances.

* Philippians 4:11-13
  + *“in whatever state I am”; “Everywhere and in all things”* – It doesn’t matter what the circumstances are.
  + Content – self-sufficient (Paul said *“I”*)
  + Paul was currently in prison (cf. 1:12-14).
    - He found something positive with this *(“turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.”)*
      * He was afforded an opportunity to preach the gospel.
    - *“My chains are in Christ”* – His main concern and desire was still to live for Christ.
      * He had been imprisoned for the sake of Christ (cf. Matthew 5:10-12 – A happiness that influenced his contentment.)
        + The beatitudes are characteristics of supreme happiness. These are all within, not without. (cf. Matthew 5:3-12) They can all be attained in any circumstance.
        + Philippians 4:12 – This is why Paul was able to be content in fortunate times and unfortunate times.
        + He had learned the secret to contentment. Namely… 🡪

1. Found in Christ (cf. Philippians 4:13).

* Christ was Paul’s source of contentment. This is the secret to being content.
* Philippians 3:7-11 (concerning his being a Jew) – His goal was to gain Christ. This is where his desire was (not in physical things).
* His strength was in Christ. Without Christ being content was impossible with his situation. Christ was his source of strength in everything.
  + 2 Corinthians 12:9-12 (mention – grace sufficient for you) – Concerning his thorn in the flesh.
  + 2 Timothy 4:16-17 (mention) – When no one stood with him the Lord did.
  + 2 Timothy 1:12 – He could commit his life to the cause of Christ because he knew Christ would be able to keep it (safeguard it).

1. Contentment is necessary. (It must be learned.)
2. Desire for riches is due to no contentment.

* 1 Timothy 6:6-10
  + (v. 7) – God created us as we are, without material possessions.
    - If the meaning in life was to gain possessions we would not only be created that way, but we would be able to take these things with us.
  + (v. 8) – God gives us the necessities. We should be content with these things.
    - Any happiness should come from the things within discussed earlier.
  + (v. 9) – The desire to be rich is the opposite of contentment. Those who desire to be rich are trying to find contentment in physical possessions, which is vain and failing.
    - The end of a desire to be rich is drowning in *“destruction and perdition.”* (Physically and spiritually. Emphasis on the spiritual.)

1. *“The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil”*

* All of these *“kinds of evil”* that are rooted in the love of money are also rooted in discontentment.
* Some *“kinds of evil”* that originate in the *“love of money.”*
  + Selfishness – all about self. Want more for self and willing to do whatever it takes.
  + Envy/covetousness – I want more and more. Often wanting something particular that is someone else’s.
  + Hatred – I hate him because he has more than me.
* (v. 10) – It is ironic that the individuals who love money and desire to be rich end up sorrowful.
  + Matthew 19:16-22 – Rich young ruler had a desire for riches. Desire to keep riches.
  + Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 – Tried to find contentment in the abundance of things possessed. Only found it in serving God (12:13).
* Paul gives a command that the rich be content in abundance. (v. 17-19).

**Conclusion**

1. Contentment is perhaps the most sought after thing.
2. True contentment is only found in Christ.
3. You will never be truly content, or truly happy, until you have put on Christ.
4. John the Baptist taught that part of repentance is to *“be content with your wages”* (Luke 3:14).
5. The Hebrew writer told those Hebrews to *“be content with such things as you have”* (Hebrews 13:5).
6. We must learn where true contentment and happiness is. Paul says to *“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”* (Philippians 4:4).