

Contentment

IT IS

WELL

WITH MY

Soul

WHATEVER MY LOT.

Philippians 4:10-13

"I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

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Background

- Paul writing to church in Philippi
- Church here is doing well
- This church is Paul's Crown and Jewel
- They have supported Paul financially
- Paul commends them for service and commitment to God and each other

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Truth: We will never find lasting contentment from any circumstance or situation.

- Contentment comes from knowing Christ is stronger and greater than any circumstance

At any stage of life we run the risk of becoming discontent with our situation.

- Work, Marriage, Family, Friendships

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We easily can believe that “the grass is greener on the other side”

We run the risk of looking at the things we don't have to make us complete

THIS IS TOXIC!!

We are to find completeness and wholeness in
HIM

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The message of our text

We should not allow our contentment to be conditional to our circumstances but allow it to flow from the truth that we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

Our Circumstances pale in comparison to the truth that Jesus is bigger than them.

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Three things to observe in this passage

1. We are to be content in need and in abundance
 - a. Keeping up with the Jones'. Appearances deceive us to thinking we would be happy if we had what they had.
 - b. This goes against our culture of attaining and consuming
 - i. With everything that we do have we should be content
 - ii. "Stuff" inevitably will let us down if we desire that it make us content!

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2. Learning Contentment is a Process
 - a. Learning requires Patience
 - i. God can use the thing we are discontent with to teach us contentment
 - b. The secret of contentment needs to be revisited.
 - a. Satan will come to try to shake our contentment

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- c. We need to be aware of areas that contentment will be a challenge.
- at any point in life there are things that can challenge our contentment
 - we need to continually place our trust and hope in Jesus in ever situation

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What is the secret that Paul is talking about then?

How do we do this?

3. The severity of our circumstances fade in contrast to knowing that we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.
 - a. Paul knew that if he can do anything through Christ, what does it matter the situation he is in

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- b. This passage is wildly misunderstood.
 - i. We cannot read this as “we can do whatever we want because Christ has given us the strength to do so”
 - ii. We need to read this in context with the theme of the letter
 - “this does not mean that God will bless whatever a person does; it must be read in the context of the letter, with its emphasis on obedience to God and service to God and others.”

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b. The secret is found in the Call

- As we follow the will of God for us and are centered in his plan, each situation that we face we are able to overcome by the strength of Christ

So let's ask the big question

So WHAT?

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- We know that we have lost the battle when we base our contentment on our circumstances
- We understand that in order to know and learn the secret of contentment we need to be centered on Jesus

But, what does this actually require of us?

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Trust! This is the prerequisite to Paul's statement

We run the risk of believing in two big lies

1. We know what is best
2. God just doesn't like us or care

Adam and Eve are an example of this

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What is the truth we can use to counteract the lie?

1. God IS trustworthy
2. God cares for us and Loves us deeply

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Questions to ask

Are there situations in my life that I am discontent in?

What circumstance is the root of that discontentment?

Does that Circumstance really matter in the Big picture that God is more than able?

How do I need to trust God differently?