

NOTES

1. **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to have **eternal life** with Him.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Everyone has sinned.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

3. The **good news** is that **JESUS CHRIST** is God's **solution** to your sin problem. He is the **ONLY way** to heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS alone** to save you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a **NEW LIFE** with complete assurance of **SALVATION**.

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."



WORSHIP SERVICES

ADDRESS

CONTACT US

SOCIAL MEDIA

10:00 AM – 12:00 NN
700 ROYAL AVE.
NEW WESTMINSTER, BC

32855 HARWOOD CR,
ABBOTSFORD, BC V2S7A6

(778) 255-5777
CONTACT@CCFVANCOUVER.ORG

CCFVANCOUVER.ORG
f CCF VANCOUVER



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Pursue the Path to Far Greater Treasure (Part 2)

Last week's message
(Philippians 4:10-13)

Related to the Part 1 sermon (fleeing from the love of money) is the subject of biblical contentment. Paul wrote, "How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:10-13). The opposite of contentment is discontentment, and it is defined in the KJV dictionary as an "uneasiness or inquietude of mind; dissatisfaction at any present state of things."

Is discontentment a sin? Why?

Discontentment violates the 10th commandment relating to covetousness. Writer Jeff Robinson, citing one of the works of Puritan pastor Thomas Boston, explains that discontentment is a mistrusting of God; it amounts to complaining against God's plan; exhibits a desire to be sovereign; covets something God has not been pleased to give us; communicates that God has made a mistake; and denies the wisdom of God and exalts one's own wisdom.

Discontentment deprives us of peace and joy. Our minds are restless because we are always thinking that there must be something better than our current situation or better than our present lot or what we have.

Discontentment tempts us to make decisions that we have not thoughtfully and prayerfully considered. Our hearts are prone to love money, and that is why the Bible warns us to stay clear of the love of money. It is idolatry, it blurs our spiritual eyes to the temporal nature of things, and it can lead one to wander from one's faith.

In relation to money and possessions, how is discontentment manifested in our lives? We likely struggle with discontent when:

- We live in debt – "charge it" i.e., buy now, pay later.
- We buy more than what we can afford.
- We buy more than what we need.

What are the keys to biblical contentment?

Paul wrote his letter to the church of Philippi during his imprisonment in Rome and, given his circumstance, one would think that he was struggling with depression and discontentment. But this was not the case. "Rejoice in the Lord always," he said. "I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Aside from joy, Paul writes about contentment. One of the elements of biblical contentment is that it is not dependent on circumstances. It is the same with joy.

Another element of biblical contentment is that it looks to God's providence positively. Paul was arrested and imprisoned because of his faith in Jesus and his faithfulness to preach the gospel but he viewed his situation in light of God's sovereign control.

The first key to biblical contentment is worship.

Paul begins v. 10 with "How I praise the Lord". Paul was looking up to Christ, rejoicing that the Philippian church had thought about him! Hence, his heart was turned to God in worship.

The second key to contentment is to **ACCEPT** whatever God has given us or allowed to us.

Biblical contentment is learned, and it takes time and practice. Paul is saying that he has learned contentment through a range of circumstances. It is through different circumstances ranging from want to plenty that our hearts are tested and we learn to be content.

Biblical contentment is not determined by circumstances. We do not know what Paul's situation was like before Epaphroditus came. Paul is saying that whatever the situation, he has learned to be content. For many of us, our lives are dictated by our circumstances. Circumstances determine the state of our hearts. But not so with Paul. His heart was steadfast, immovable, content, satisfied.

The third key to biblical contentment is the enabling power of Christ.

In v. 13 Paul shows us how he is able to face his circumstances with contentment - it is through Christ who gives him strength. We are able to face our circumstances with contentment through the enabling of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection/Application

True contentment as described in the Bible will only be possible when we humbly acknowledge our sinfulness. It is only when we receive the grace of God by faith in sending His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to free us from our biggest problem - our sinfulness - that we begin to know and experience real contentment in life. The only way that we can be freed from the bondage of self-centeredness and experience genuine contentment is by having Christ at the center of our universe.

We learned earlier that discontentment is sin. Sin weighs us down so we need to repent and then ask the Lord to empower us to look up to His providence in worship and to accept whatever circumstances that He has allowed us to face. Remember the words of the apostle Paul: *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength* (Phil. 4:13, NLT).

Invitation for public testimonies:

Glorify God by sharing how He is working in your life! It will surely encourage and bless others as well. You may get in touch with Pastor Benjie at contact@ccfvancouver.org or feel free to approach him or other servant leaders after the worship service.



*So the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.*

*Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.*

(Psalm 78:6-7)

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- ◆ Tell us about your **answered prayers** in the box below or on a CCF tithe envelope (available at the usher's table), then drop it in the tithe box. Our tithe box is located at the usher's table or in the back of the worship service room.
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