

Contentment

Introduction

1. **Contentment is one of the greatest possessions one may have.**
 - A. **It is within itself a goal toward which one needs to strive. A truly contented person possesses a balance;**
 - 1) **The daily pressures and setbacks do not disconcert.**
 - 2) **One is able to go with the flow of daily activities realizing a Great Hand is directing; therefore, all is well!**

2. **The Psalmist David said:**
Psalms 17:15
 - A. **John Balquy said,** "Contentment is the pearl of great price, and whoever procures it at the expense of ten thousand desires makes a wise and a happy purchase."
 - B. **Socrates remarked,** "Contentment is natural wealth, luxury is artificial poverty."
 - C. **Plautus concluded,** "If you are content, you have enough to live comfortably."

D. David found contentment in beholding God's face in righteousness. Sin only produces misery! One who does not stand before God in righteousness will not find happiness and contentment in life.

1) Moses cautioned the people of his day:

Numbers 32:23be sure your sin will find you out.

2) One must realize that sin cannot be hidden from God. We are naked and open before Him. Since we cannot hide our wickedness, misery results.

Men Seek Contentment in Various Ways

1. Worldly Pleasure:

(many things of life that rob us of our time, money, etc.)

A. Worldly pleasures will not last. Yet many continue to invest in this vanishing commodity. David wrote:

Psalms 17:14from men of the world **who have their portion in this life,**

B. Moses understood that there was much more to life than worldly pleasures.

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, **esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt;** for he looked to the reward.

2. Riches.

A. Many individuals feel that they must have more and more. They strive to have “only the best” and try to “keep up with the Jones”

B. Solomon was blessed with wealth, yet he taught:

Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them; **so what profit have the owners except to see them with their eyes?**

C. Solomon said that there was something much more important in life - what do you think that is?

Proverbs 22:1 **A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,** loving favor rather than silver and gold.

Proverbs 30:8-9 Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches-- feed me with the food allotted to me; **Lest I be full and deny You,** and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.

3. Power.

A. It is really remarkable at the number of people that will do anything, even murder, to rise to power. People are shoved out of the way so that one can advance up that ladder of "power."

1) We need to understand some valuable scriptures in this area, so that we can truly learn to be content.

James 4:6God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

B. Who brings the new day? Who makes it rain? Who adds days to our number? These are areas outside of man's capability. God is that "great fountain" from where all blessings flow!

4. Knowledge.

A. There is no end of making books, for the knowledge is ever expanding! Mankind is beginning to understand some of the wonderful laws of God placed in existence at the creation.

1) A knowledge that does not lead one to acknowledge and subject himself to the Almighty God is misdirected knowledge.

B. Paul warned Timothy to “guard what was committed to his trust.”

1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babble and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge--by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith.

True Contentment Is Found in God

1. David found contentment in living a life of righteousness to God.

2. Solomon said:

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

3. When we walk with God, it causes us to begin to reflect God’s righteousness within our life.

2 Corinthians 3:18

4. Keep our eyes focused on God - not our desires.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 **Better is the sight of the eyes** than the wandering of desire. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

A. Not only does the wisdom of Solomon recommend contentment, but the Holy Spirit also stresses the need for this commodity in the New Testament.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:**

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; **be content with such things as you have.** For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

1) Some cannot be content with little, and some cannot be content even with prosperity.

5. We must all realize that true contentment is only found in God - nothing else really matters because we will one day die.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 **Now godliness with contentment is great gain.** For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, **with these we shall be content.**

A. This is important for us to learn in this life. Be content with the simple things of life. Be diligent for the Lord, not the material.

Conclusion

1. **This is why David could say:** "I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness."
2. **He could anticipate that happy, contented, satisfied emotion because he walked in righteousness.**
3. **Happiness is the result of character, not things!**
4. **The wonderful teachings of the beatitudes manifest this great and eternal truth. Seek to be what God created us to be, a creature in His own likeness! Then satisfaction will come to us.**

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

