

LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN #13
“Coping With Lack of Contentment”
Philippians 4:10-13

Finding contentment in life is illusive. It slips through one’s fingers because often it can’t be held on to. People search for it, but it eludes them. Sadly, many people go through life never coming into a place of contentment, which is unfortunate because life is much more enjoyable when we are content. Today’s message will focus on Paul’s journey to finding contentment. In our season of covid craziness it would be therapeutic to be in the space of contentment, and today’s teaching will give us multiple suggestions regarding how that can happen.

#1. CONTENTMENT DEFINED – WHAT IS IT?

- A. Definition: to be fulfilled, satisfied, happy in life
- B. Defined by the world – based on circumstances
- C. Defined by the Bible – based on knowing Jesus

#2. CONTENTMENT IS HARD TO FIND

- A. I’ll be content when...
- B. Illusions from corporate America
- C. Illusions of being rich
- D. Illusions from partying
- E. Illusions from relationships
- F. Illusions bring self-pity & disappointment

#3. CONTENTMENT IS NOT BASED ON HAVING MONEY, vv. 10-11a

- A. Paul is thanking them for the love offering
- B. Paul knows they didn’t have an opportunity to express their concern for him
- C. Paul doesn’t want to offend them by not thanking them
- D. Paul warned about the love of money, 1 Tim 6:6-10
- E. Paul taught a characteristic of godliness is being content
- F. Paul wasn’t in need, v. 11a

#4. CONTENTMENT IS ROOTED IN DEPENDING ON JESUS, v. 11

- A. Paul didn’t need their financial help
- B. Paul was content (*autarkes: self-sufficient, resourceful, strong in oneself, satisfied*)
- C. Paul is referring to a virtue of the stoic philosophers
- D. Paul redefined the word from a Christian perspective
- E. Paul’s definition of the word is *Christ-sufficient*

#5. CONTENTMENT MUST BE LEARNED, v. 11

- A. Paul learned (*manthano: learn through experience*) how to be content
- B. Paul learned to be content through the school of hard knocks
- C. Paul came from a well-to-do family
- D. Paul’s lifestyle radically changed when he followed Christ

#6. CONTENTMENT CAN BE REALIZED IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE, vv. 11-12

- A. Paul knows what it is to be in need & to have plenty, v. 11
- B. Whether well fed or hungry, v. 12
- C. Whether in plenty or in want, v. 12
- D. Paul learned contentment in every situation, v. 12, Heb 13:5-6

#7. CONTENTMENT IS REALIZED BY COPING WITH LIFE’S CHALLENGES THROUGH CHRIST’S STRENGTH, v. 13

- A. I learned the secret (*mueo: learning, educated*)
- B. I can do all things – cope with any challenge
- C. I can cope through Christ’s strength

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE
Philippians 4:10-13

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

1 Timothy 6:3-10: If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Hebrews 13:5-6: Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." ⁶So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What are some ways in which people in the world try to find contentment?
- #2. In what ways do people defeat themselves in the way they think about finding contentment?
- #3. Why is it dangerous to base your contentment on circumstances that prevail in your life?
- #4. What are some obstacles that you have had to overcome in being content?
- #5. Why is the quest for money potentially dangerous? 1 Timothy 6:3-10

#6. What insights can you glean from Hebrews 13:5-6?

#7. Discuss the meaning of the word "content" (*autarkes*). How did Paul redefine the word from a Christian perspective?

#8. Why is contentment a learned experience? (v. 11)

#9. How can one be content in all circumstances of life—both good and bad?

#10. Discuss how Paul must have struggled with going from a position of being well off before he became a Christian, to living a life of humble means.

#11. What is the secret to being content that Paul discovered?

#12. In what way(s) is v. 13 misinterpreted?

#13. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

TODAY'S SONGS

Our God

Verse 1

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like You

Verse 2

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God our God

Bridge

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
(Then) what could stand against

CCLI Song # 5677416

Your Love Never Fails

Verse 1

Nothing can separate
Even if I ran away
Your love never fails
I know I still make mistakes but
You have new mercies for me ev'ryday
Your love never fails

Chorus

(And) You stay the same through the ages
Your love never changes
There may be pain in the night
But joy comes in the morning
And when the oceans rage
I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me
(Your love never fails)

Verse 2

The wind is strong and the water's deep
But I'm not alone here in these open seas
Your love never fails
The chasm is far too wide
I never thought I'd reach the other side
Your love never fails

Bridge

You make all things
Work together for my good
You make all things
Work together for my good

CCLI Song # 5337172

One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)

Verse 1

Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains
One thing remains

Interlude

Your love Your love Your love will never change

Chorus

Your love never fails
It never gives up
Never runs out on me
(REPEAT)

Your love

Verse 2

On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains
One thing remains

Bridge

In death in life I'm confident and
Cover'd by the power of Your great love
My debt is paid there's nothing that
Can separate my heart from Your great love
(REPEAT)

Ending

Your love

CCLI Song # 5508444

How Great Is Our God

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End
The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Bridge

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

Because of the extraordinary times we are living in due to the pandemic the District Superintendent, Wayne Spriggs, has given churches permission to suspend their bylaws regarding their annual meeting. Therefore, we will not be having our annual meeting for 2021. The present board members will continue to serve for another year and a financial report will be made available to the congregation for next year.

PHASE ONE OF REOPENING

We are in week three of phase one of reopening our church. We are broadcasting our Sunday service from the church with live worship, led by our new worship leader Donald Roberts (DJ). If you would like to come to the facility for the service, you are welcome to do so. We ask that you wear a mask, social distance, if you have any symptoms please stay home. There will be no food or beverages served, and there will be no children's ministry at this time. Everything will still be available on Zoom, so nobody will be left out of the worship experience. Hard copies of the words to the songs will be available at church and will be in the bulletin.

Tuesday Bible Study at 6:30: a discussion of the previous sermon.

Wednesday prayer and study at 6:30. (access both by clicking the zoom link)

Now that we are open for church we will not have our Saturday gathering at the park.

Thank you for financially supporting the ministry of Hillcrest Church. You can give online at the church website or mail your check to the church.

- Give to the general fund (our operating expenses)
- Give to the elder's fund (to assist those in financial need)
- Give to the Great Commission fund (for the missionaries of the CMA)

If you need spiritual counseling during these crazy times don't hesitate to contact any of the elders:

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