# "Be Content"

Content = Satisfied; To be happy with what I have.

Today more than ever it is a rarity in the USA to find a contented person.

The allurements of advertising, the fantasies of the soap operas, the pressures of peers (keeping up with the Jones'), and man's basic greedy, covetous nature -- all propel him to seek something new...different...better...more.

As toddlers we wanted someone else's toy. Rarely content with what we had.

As children, we are not content in grade school: "Oh, if I could only be in Jr. High" . . . "High school" . . . "College" . . . "Out in the ministry" etc.

As teenagers, we were not content being a son or daughter, we wanted the independence of adulthood.

When we became adults, we became dicontent with our careers, so we hopped from one employment opportunity to another.
(John the Baptist said: "Be content with your wages" (Lk. 3:13).)

Then married and with time became discontent with our spouse.

When God blessed our homes with children we compared them to others' kids and said "why can't you be like _____?"

Grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

EX: Lucifer was not content in his great position which he held.

A content person is one who is satisfied with his/her lot (portion) in life, whether that portion be: possessions, position, or relationships.

ILLUS: of Paul's contentment: Phil. 4:11-13 - *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

1 Tim. 6:8
And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Examples of Discontentment:

Israel & the Quail
(Ps 106:15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.)
David & Bathsheba (2Sa 11:3)
Judas & the Bag of Money (John 12:6)
Ahab & Naboth's Vineyard (I Kings 21)

The opposite of being content is three letters: contention. Those who strive against what God wants for them always have lives characterized by struggle, strife, and conflict.

The theme of verses 17-28 is found in verses 20 and 24 - *"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. . . . Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God."*

Don't seek to leave your present status! (Be content where God has put you!)

Paul's theme here: "We should not be preoccupied with changing our outward circumstances." (MacArthur, p. 170)

The word *"called"* or "*calling"* occurs frequently in verses 17-24.

The word is used here with the same meaning as *"saved"* or *"converted."* It describes God's sovereign act of saving our souls.

So Paul is peaking to believers from the point at which they became Christians. This message has specific application to God's people

The Enemies of Contentment:

1.Pride
In pride we view ourselves as worthy of more or better than we have or really deserve. A man said to a friend, "How come you never married?" The friend replied, "It was like this: I wasn't satisfied until I found the ideal woman." "And you never found her?" "Oh, sure, I found her. But just my luck: she was looking for the ideal man?"

2.Covetousness (dissatisfaction with what you have)
Heb. 13:5 - *"Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*
Paul testified: *"Godliness with contentment is great gain."* (I Tim. 6:6).

Being content in life does not mean that you should never seek to better your situation financially; it does mean that money is not your obsession. Money will not conflict with my personal walk with God, my family, or my church attendance.

3.Jealousy (seeing what others have and then desiring it so you retain a feeling of superiority over them or at least remain equal with them [Prov. 23:17])

4.Fear (insecurities due to a lack of faith in God)
Be satisfied even through the bad times.
Accept the state (situation) you are in. Be satisfied! Don't make your circumstances your enemy if bad (where you fight it) or your god if good (where you won't let anything alter it).
--Don't rebel or run
--Don't make any changes unless you are 100% sure it is God Who is leading you on (to a new job, new state, etc.)

5.Ultimately, unbelief (a lack of faith that God can work in your present state)
God placed you in the situation you are in for a purpose!
Basically, to test the genuineness of your faith.
Times of need are a test (to see if you will totally depend on Christ).
Times of financial prosperity are a test (to see how you will handle what God has given)

What is the secret of contentment? Faith in God's sovereign control over every detail of my life. God has given me the good I have (James 1:17) and will continue to do so until Christ returns (Phil. 1:6)

When our focus shifts from God, when our concentration in life is not beamed in on Him, we are sure to experience discouragement and emotional unrest (Ps. 42:5 - *"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.")*

"Contentment makes poor men rich; discontentment makes rich men poor." (Ben Franklin)

The most joy-filled people I know are not those with the "nicest" things in life, but are those who are content with what they have.

**Practice THANKFULNESS daily**. Thank God for your Salvation; Job; Marital status; Wife/Husband; Children; Church; etc.

This is the secret to be free from worry! - Contentment
This is the secret to be free from covetousness! - Contentment
This is the secret to be free from jealousy! - Contentment
This is the secret to be free from lust! - Contentment
This is the secret to e free from loving the world! - Contentment

HYMN:  "Take the World, But Give Me Jesus"

:  It's easy to grumble and mumble.

--We complain about work - when we should thank God we can.

--We grumble about work in rearing children - should thank God for them.

--We fume when car doesn't work - while much of the world doesn't even have food to eat.

--We cry that we need more money - when we live in richest country in the world.

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This is the secret to e free from loving the world! - Contentment

You can have the peace of God! - Contentment

You can have calmness in your soul! - Contentment