

Sunday, June 4, 2017
Contentment in All Situations
Hebrews 13:5–6; 1 Timoth. 6:6–8; Philippians 4:11–13

I. What Is Contentment?

- A. Contentment Is a Command Heb. 13:5

- B. Contentment Is a Command to Be Satisfied 1 Tim. 6:6–8

- C. Contentment Is to Be Satisfied with the Basic Needs of Life 1 Tim 6:8
Eccl. 5:12; Prov. 30:8–16; 2 Cor. 9:8; Prov. 23:4; Prov. 23:20; Heb. 13:5;
1 Tim. 6:9, 10; Matt. 6:25–33

II. When Are We to Be Content? Phil. 4:11–13

- A. Contentment Is Regardless of Circumstances
Habb. 3:17

- B. Contentment Is Not Found by a Change of Circumstances

III. Why Are We to Be Content?

- A. Because in the *next* Life These Things Won't Matter— 1 Tim. 6:7.
Eccl. 5:15; Job 1:21; Ps. 49:16f

- B. Because in *this* Life These Things Don't Matter

IV. How Are We to Be Content?

- A. Contentment Is Found in the Person of Christ. Your Relationship with Christ
Heb. 13:5; Ps. 118:6

- B. Contentment Is Found in the Promise of Christ. His Presence with You Always 13:5b
Gen. 28:15; 1 Chron. 28:20; Josh. 1:5, 6

- C. Contentment Is Found in the Perseverance of Christ. His Faithful Grace Always 13:8

QUOTES:

"I continually find it necessary to guard against that natural love of wealth and grandeur which prompts us always, when we come to apply our general doctrine to our own case, to claim as exception." (William Wilberforce)

Next to faith, this is the highest art: to be content in the calling in which God has placed you. I have not learned it yet." (Martin Luther)

Contentment is "that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition." (Jeremiah Burroughs)

"Contentment is the product of a heart resting in God. . . . It is the blessed assurance that God does all things well, and is, even now, making all things work together for my ultimate good." (A W Pink)

"You worship God more by [contentment] than when you come to hear a sermon, or spend half an hour, in prayer, or when you come to receive a sacrament. These . . . are only external acts of worship But [contentment] is the soul's worship, to subject itself thus to God. . . by being pleased with what God does." (Jeremiah Burroughs)

"Let us learn to have our heart so regulated, as to desire nothing but what is necessary for supporting life." (Calvin)

"It is . . . not just the event of loss, disappointment, or frustration on its own, but it is our *attitude to these* situations that is so important. Crises may bring about a reassessment of values, life goals, attitudes to death, possessions, career, and relationships. What we think about these things will deeply affect what we feel about them and how they influence our lives. We cannot blame the past or the difficulties in our lives for all our problems. It is how we react to them that matters." (Ralph Winter)

"In essence, contentment is wanting what God wants for us, and what He wants for us is Him. This is why the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. We most glorify God when we most enjoy what He has created us to desire—Himself." (Burk Parsons)

"Only when our Christ is big enough to satisfy us can we be content no matter our particular circumstances; more than that, satisfied *with* the circumstances and not merely *despite* the circumstances. This is a telling point. We have not yet attained to biblical contentment when we would be content with Christ were it not for our circumstances. No, genuine contentment is realized both *in* our circumstances and *with* our circumstances." (Sinclair Ferguson)

Quotes from Erik Raymond's book, *Chasing Contentment: Trusting God in a Discontented Age*:

"Contentment is far more powerful than a change of circumstances. Instead of being sourced on the outside and subject to changing circumstances, biblical contentment comes from within and endures through the spectrum of circumstances."

"If you are having a hard time being content, make a list of everything you have that you don't deserve, and then make a list of everything you deserve that you don't have."

"The heart of the matter is that when we ourselves determine what will satisfy, we don't pursue what brings true satisfaction. The broken compass within us always leads to the dumpster rather than the five-star restaurant."

"Heaven is so happy because those who are there have come to see, without any impediments or weights of sin, that God is their all in all. In heaven there is eternal delight without the things we so often chase after."

"Most people say they'd be happy if they could just have more. But God often makes us content not by giving us more stuff or relationships but by giving us more humility and trust."

"It is a simple formula really: if you want to be content, think less about yourself and more about Christ."