

Sermon Title: Want Contentment?

Sermon Series: Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

Scripture: Philippians 4:10-13

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



Materialist view = contentment if you have more

—Richard Kaufmann

“How much money is enough?”

“Just a little bit more.”

—John D Rockefeller

Materialist view = contentment if you have more

Minimalist view = contentment if you have less

—Richard Kaufmann

The minimalist streak may occasionally say: “I’ve got to get out of this area to be content.”

The materialist streak might say, “and it’s got to be to a nice resort.”

How can we have _____ in any circumstances?

1. _____ in the Lord through _____

Philippians 4:10 ESV

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

2. Contentment in any circumstance

A. Contentment must be _____

Philippians 3:12 ESV

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

B. Contentment doesn't mean you like every _____

C. Contentment = I already have all I _____ in whatever I am _____

Philippians 3:3b

...who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

Philippians 4:11-12

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

3. The secret to contentment = _____ gives me everything I need

Philippians 4:13

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:11-13

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in **whatever situation** I am to be content.

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and **every circumstance**, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do **all things** through him who strengthens me.

I can do all things does not mean I can do whatever I want. It means I can be content in all things.

Because Jesus _____ me

Philippians 4:13

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Strengthen = passive endurance received from another place

Strengthen = given strength to take action

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:8

8 And God is able to make **all grace abound to you**, so that having **all sufficiency** in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Contentment is knowing that as you give, obey, and serve, you will have all you need for whatever you are facing.

“Most of the things we load into our need category aren’t really needs. They are actually desires that have become so precious and important to us that we have come to the point that we cannot conceive of being happy without them...If you’re convinced something is a need and God does not deliver it, you begin to question his goodness. What is deadly about questioning God’s goodness is that you tend not to run for help to someone you doubt.”

—Paul Tripp – New Morning Mercies

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Philippians 1:20-21

20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 4:13

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**Here is the secret of contentment: Jesus is _____ me to know He will
_____ in everything.**

Discussion Questions – December 3, 2023

Getting to know you Questions:

1. If you could have one thing provided for you, what would it be?
2. Richard Kaufmann shares there are two popular views on how we can be content. The Materialist view (contentment if you have more) and the Minimalist view (contentment if you have less), Which one do you struggle with most?

Into the Bible Questions:

Read Philippians 4:10-13

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

3. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, encouraged you, confused you, or bothered you?
4. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?
5. How have you seen someone's sacrifice bring great joy to others? How is that a blessing from God?
6. What comes to your mind with the word contentment? How does our world define it? How does that compare or contrast to Paul's description here?
7. What are some of the most difficult areas for us to be content in?
8. How does both having an abundance and having little challenge our ability to be thankful to God?
9. Ian shared that "Contentment is knowing that as you give, obey, and serve, you will have all you need for whatever you are facing." How have you seen giving, obeying, and serving connect to contentment?

10. How have you seen God provide for you?

For Extra Study

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

6 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9 As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

11. If you give, why do you normally give?

12. From this passage, how are you enriched?

13. What is the motivation of giving?

14. What do you find challenging about trusting God?

15. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

16. Think about the past week. Do you notice any connection between the relative joy or satisfaction of your heart and the circumstances of your day? To what extent is your personal joy enslaved to your life situation?

17. What does it look like to trust Jesus for our strength? How do we cling to his strength to persevere and even rejoice in difficult circumstances?

18. Here's the secret of contentment: Jesus is strengthening me to know He will provide in everything. How could you grow in this truth, this week?

19. How can we encourage each other to be content?