

Lesson 3 | Instruction of Contentment

Introduction:

- Discontentment
 - Know by nature
 - Don't need to learn
 - Disquieted, cast down soul
 - Abound or abased
- Contentment
 - Need to learn
 - Instructed to be content
 - Peace and joy
 - Abound or abased

Preview:

- Instructed in God's Word to produce "contentment"
 - Learn how to be "content"
 - Doctrine
 - The Effectual Working of the Doctrine
 - Picture of doctrine producing "contentment"

Sermon:

Instructed in God's Word to produce "contentment"

- **Philippians 4:11**
 - "for I have learned"
 - **Where does this learning come from?**
 - :13 - Christ (school of Christ)
 - **1 Thessalonians 2:13**
 - *"the word of truth, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."*
 - So many things the word of God is supposed to work in you and toward others
 - General: patience, comfort, hope, love, contentment
 - Specific: certain words, body posture, strategies of godly love, gifts, etc
 - **What is being learned?**
 - Christ/"contentment"
 - Satisfied and not disturbed (a quieted soul)

- *Inward, quiet disposition of your soul that freely yields and seeks God's wisdom, mind, and heart in every condition and producing satisfaction.*

□ **Philippians 4:12**

- Explaining second part of verse :11
- :11 - "...in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."
- :12 - "I know....how to be"
 - "both - abased and abound
- He doesn't just say he learned contentment
- He says he learned "how to" be content
 - In whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content
- Contentment isn't just some doctrine to be learned but understanding "how" that doctrine can be applied to every "state".
- "both - to be abased, and ...to abound"
 - There are different states in which you can be in or come to be in that necessitate nuances in which other states do not necessitate.
 - Spectrum "abased" and "abound"
 - I am "abased" I am poor in this world - if only I had more I could be content doesn't work with the same degree when you "abound".
 - Therefore we need to learn "how to" be abased and abound.

Picture of doctrine producing contentment

- "How to" be "abased"
 - Believe the word of God
 - Understand its effectual working
 - 2 Cor. 1:8-11
 - Php. 1:19-26 - "supply"
- Discontentment
 - Manifests itself in words and behavior
 - Disturbances within
 - Raging sea

- Trouble, war in the heart
- Vexation
- Strike something hard and it makes a noise, strike something soft and it makes no noise (heart)
- What do I have to gain, what I have to lose?
- "how to" abound
- 1 Corinthians 7:20-23
 - "servants of men" isn't the issue of the estate you are in, but what is working in you in that estate
 - I am a servant - therefore I am not free - the world "care for it"! - care too much - Lord's freeman
 - I am free - therefore I am not a servant - the world "don't use it" - don't care enough - Servant of Christ
 - 1 Corinthians 7:20-23
 - Situation changes
 - Ask what does God require of me in this situation?
 - Isn't the situation, but "how to" be in the situation
 - Quiet the matter of getting back to another situation
 - 1 Timothy 6:1-10

Conclusion: