



## **Contentment**

II Corinthians 11:23b-28; Philippians 4:11b-13, NLT

Pastor Kevin Suess

July 10, 2022

### **Causes of discontentment**

- Job
- Finances
- Marital status
- Other's (kids, co-workers, friends, etc.)
- Rejection or opposition
- Painful memories
- Sinful past
- Physical illness or decline or, injury

### **Life as Saul**

- Dual citizenship
- Likely from a wealthy family

### As a Roman

- Special legal allowances re: marriage, proper court hearings
- Military strength and resource
- Travel on the extensive Roman highway system

### As a Jew

- Highly educated (reading, writing, arithmetic, music, athletics, Greek poetry and philosophy, morality) starting from 6-8 yrs. old.
- Studied under Gamaliel who was a member of the Sanhedrin court
- Zeal for enforcing the law, resulting in horrendous persecution of Christians even voting for their imprisonment or death
- Sought to destroy the church
- Self -identified as "the worst of sinners"

After his conversion, his life became exponentially difficult.

### **Life as Paul**

- Traveled extensively
- Founded and/or mentored churches
- Many missionary journeys
- Mentored young leaders
- And a plethora of others, i.e. prison guards and prisoners, multi-generations of family friends

## **II Corinthians 11:23b-28, NLT**

*“...I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches.”*

## **Philippians 4:11-13, NLT**

*“... I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”*

## **Building Contentment In Your Life**

- 1) You can learn to be contented but requires experiences and practice
- 2) Confess and repent of sin
- 3) Understand that contentment breeds peace
- 4) Kill greed
- 5) Avoid window shopping
- 6) Simplify your life