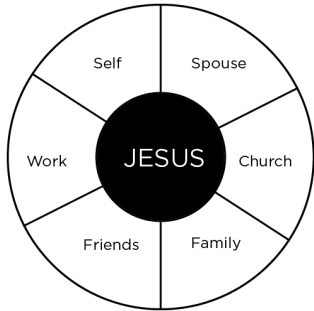


Perspective 2: A Life of Contentment



1 Tim 6:6 Godliness + contentment = great gain!

Paul's Secret to Contentment

CH 1: To live is Christ, to die is gain / refinement through suffering

CH 2: Humbly valuing others above yourself / set Jesus as your example in life... having the mindset of Jesus... humble and obedient, even to death.

CH 3: When compared to knowing Jesus, everything falls short, or worse! / Press on to really know Jesus, not just to know about him. / Let go of the past and those things that are holding you back / stop letting your stomach, or appetites for the things of this world run and ruin your life

CH 4: Through asking God in prayer, let go of anxiousness / Spend your time thinking about what is good, holy and great about life and put into practice everything you have learned about following Jesus. / Finally, be generous, especially to the work of God... for it has the power to break the pattern of greed and self-centeredness in our lives!

4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!"*

What's Next?

- The Phone Challenge
- Philippians Challenge
- 4:19

Message given by Matt Heinricy, Spiritual Growth Pastor at Rise City Church
Watch/Listen to more messages through the Rise City Church App or online
at www.risecitychurch.com

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS: COMPARISON & CONTENTMENT

Philippians 4:10-20

"A Christmas Carol"

"The most wonderful time of the year..."

Thanksgiving fail / Black Friday / Cyber Monday and Giving Tuesday?

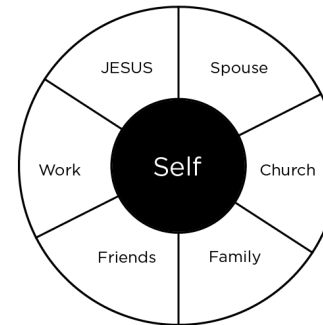
Paul's Background...

Philippians 4:10-20

2 Perspectives and The Secret Sauce

Perspective 1: A Life of Comparison is a Self – Centered Existence.

"How are you doing?"



Bottom Line: A life of comparison will leave you disillusioned and disappointed. A life of contentment will give you a full and rich life.

**For continued sermon notes/outline, please turn to the back of this handout.*

**The
Ghosts of Christmas: Comparison & Contentment**
Date: 12/2/2018

GETTING STARTED

Have you ever had an “Ebenezer Scrooge” moment? A moment when you were looking in on your life and you didn’t like what you saw?

SUNDAY RECAP

In Sunday’s message, Pastor Matt kicked off a new series “The Ghosts of Christmas” focusing on the ghosts that cause us to lose perspective. This week he focused on the ghosts of comparison and contentment and how a life of comparison will leave you disillusioned and disappointed, but a life of contentment will give you a full and rich life.

Throughout this message series the ghosts of comparison, consumption, conformity and comfort will be exposed and allow us to fully worship the Christ of Christmas.

STUDY & SHARE

1. Comparison and Contentment

Philippians 4:10-20

Do you often ask God why you don’t have what your neighbor has? Or do you continually focus on the negative instead of the positives? Read Philippians 4:10-20 and think about the times when God came through for you, even though you may not have been able to see it at the time. Think about all God does for you on a daily basis that you often overlook and try to view your day through the eyes of Paul.

2. Perspective 1: A Life of Comparison is a Self-Centered Existence

Have you ever found yourself comparing yourself to others? A mom at the supermarket or at school? A neighbor with a new car or a co-worker? Discuss a moment when you compared yourself to another person, how did you feel afterwards? Fulfilled or frustrated?

3. Perspective 2: A Life of Contentment

Philippians 4:18-19

“But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance I am fully supplied...And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

When you fully know Jesus and have a relationship with Him, nothing compares. To know Christ is all we need. We often have a narrow-minded view point when dealing with greed and contentment. Instead of feeling gratefulness for what we have we feel an overwhelming sense of frustration for what we don’t have which often leads to bitterness. However, when we widen our lens and focus on ALL God has done for us, we start to live a life of gratitude and build a deeper relationship with Christ.

As we go into the holiday season, we have a few challenges for you to focus on:

1. Focus on relationships, relationships with your spouse, friends and family and your relationship with Christ. Take a moment and write down 3 people you can spend intentional time with this holiday season.
2. When you find yourself struggling with a comparison moment write it down, then stop and think about what you are struggling with and write a positive next to it.
3. Read Philippians 4:19, Paul’s letter to the Philippians throughout the month of December to keep and maintain his “secret” to contentment.

SHINE TO OTHERS // PRAYER

Spend time thanking God for his truth and for everything he has given you. Ask God to give you, your group and Rise City Church a passion for God’s word and to always look at what we have and not what we don’t. Pray for other needs shared within your group.

These **Sermon Based Life Group Materials are provided by Rise City Church for the purpose of deeper study of God’s Word and are best used in a small group setting. If you would like more information about Life Groups at Rise, please go the Life Groups page on our website or to the Rise City app.*