

CONTENTMENT

There is so much dis-contentment today on every hand that it is almost epidemically affecting our way of life. People are being pressured by the media to be dis-satisfied with what they have and continue wanting more and more of that which they really can't afford.

The word Contentment is found only once in the Bible -- BUT -- it is found in a very powerful verse, *"Now Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain"* (1 Timothy 6:6). This verse of Scripture provides the means of obtaining our satisfaction by living a Godly life.

Paul the Apostle gives us three other verses on the matter -- (1) *"I have learned in whatever state I am, to be Content"* (Philippians 4:11) (2) *"Having food and clothing, with these we shall be Content"* (1 Timothy 6:8) (3) *"Be Content with such things as you have"* (Hebrews 13:5).

Let's look at each of these 3 more closely --

(1) *"I have learned in whatever state I am, to be Content"* -- In simple English -- TO BE SATISFIED. Stop looking at others with green eyes and wishing that you could have it too. Someone will often have a better house, a newer car, smarter children than you -- SO WHAT! -- Look at what you have and rejoice and be Content -- we're not in competition.

Paul has just encouraged the other Christians of his day to *"Rejoice in the Lord"* (vs.4), *"Be anxious for nothing"* (vs.6), *"Pray about everything"* (vs.6), and receive the *"Peace of God"* (vs.7) -- only then will Contentment follow.

(2) *"Having food and clothing"* -- our basic needs to be met. In this chapter Paul is urging a simplistic and satisfying lifestyle, emphasizing that *"we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out"* (vs.7-8).

(3) *"Be Content with such things as you have"* (vs.5) -- This follows, *"let brotherly love continue"* (vs.1), *"Entertain strangers"* (vs.2), *"Remember others"* (vs.3), *Honor marriage"* (vs.4), *"Do not covet"* (vs.5) -- and ends with a promise, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (vs. 5) -- what more could we want? Very simple things to observe to eliminate Covetousness from our lives.

Continuing with our title of Contentment we find another item that is upsetting many in today's society -- Wages! The Bible says, *"Be Content with your wages"* (Luke 3:14). This opens another bag of upsetting circumstances. Unions have, through the years, helped those who were under paid and taken advantage of. However, some unions and union leaders are today making unrealistic demands and in fact hurting workers by sending the jobs to other countries that pay slave wages and are out of bounds for the American unions.

Almost daily we hear on the news of large manufacturing plants controlled by unions closing their doors, laying off workers, and moving to non-union areas in order to remain in competition.

One has to wonder if the union bosses lack the Contentment necessary for both the employers and the employees.

So, where does real Contentment come from? It comes from appreciating what God has given you and waiting patiently for what further He has for you. *“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength”* (Isaiah 40:31).

Using Credit Cards carelessly, borrowing money for needless and expensive items -- again -- *“BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS AS YOU HAVE!”* -- (Hebrews 13:5).

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