



“THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT”

Series: “A LIFE WORTH LIVING”, Part 8 of 8

Sunday, November 24, 2024, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: Philippians 4:12-13

Big Idea: As we live in a daily, vital relationship with Christ, we can learn to be content and even rejoice in the midst of our circumstances, whatever they are.

Philippians 4:12, “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

I. MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CONTENTMENT.

A. Contentment does not rule out healthy ambition.

Proverbs 6:6-11, “Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise, Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, Prepares her food in the summer, And gathers her provision in the harvest. How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? ‘A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest’ And your poverty will come in like a vagabond, And your need like an armed man.” {NASV}

B. Contentment is not a constant state of pleasure.

2 Corinthians 11:23b-28, “I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”

II. A STRATEGY TO LEARN HOW TO BE CONTENT.

A. Stop comparing and competing with others.

Psalm 68:3, "But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful."

Ecclesiastes 5:10a, "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income."

B. Cherish human friendships over material wealth.

1 Kings 21:4, So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.

James 4:1-2b, "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight."

"The good life is built with good relationships." Dr. Robert Waldinger

1 Timothy 6:6, "But godliness with contentment is great gain."