

Settle it!

Settle your CONTENTMENT

Philippians 4:10-14

What Contentment is:

A VIRTUE to be learned

A PRACTICE to be repeated

Paul's **gratitude** for the church's gift

vs. 10, 14-19

Paul '**learned the secret**' of being content

vs. 11-13

Seasons of little:

Humble Means

Going Hungry

Suffering Need

Seasons of plenty:

Prosperity

Being filled

Abundance

Contentment's **VIRTUE**:

'I am SATISFIED with what God has provided'

Contentment's **PRACTICE**:

'I am living in financial SELF-SUFFICIENCY; without need of aid'

Contentment's **SECRET** sauce:

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'

Three firm footings to learn the secret of Contentment:

- Trust in God's **PROVIDENCE** – Matthew 6:25-34

God uses **COMMON** and **DIVERSE** elements to accomplish His purposes.

- Be **SATISFIED** with little or less than others

1 Timothy 6:6, 8; Hebrews 13:5 - As long as your **BASIC NEEDS** are met, be happy

- Allow **JESUS** to infuse you with spiritual strength.

He can fortify your **INTERNAL** struggle and **EXTERNAL** pressure

Auburn Grace Community Church – March 6th, 2022

Philippians 4:11-12 ... *for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.*

DISCOVER (Read Philippians 4:10-14)

1. As a group, define some of the characteristics of a content person. In contrast, what makes us discontent? Describe someone you know that models contentment even though they have much less than you. Describe someone that has plenty but never seems content.
2. Have you ever been in a season where your life was marred by discontentment? What brought you back to being satisfied with what you have? How long did that take? Looking back on that season in life, how could you have short-circuited your discontentment sooner?
3. In God's eyes, is it wrong to be ambitious? Explain.
4. How do people with plenty sometimes judge those with little? In contrast, how do people with little become resentful of those with more than enough? Ponder quietly or share with the group if you have been guilty of being judgmental in either situation. How does jealousy become intertwined with discontent?

EXPLORE

1. Read Genesis 3:1-5 and Acts 5:1-10. Where do you see discontent in these scriptures? How do advertisements today encourage greed and the insatiable want of more?
2. What did Jesus say about anxiety over possessions and provisions? (see Matthew 6:25-34) How did Jesus teach us to pray in regard to daily bread? (see Matthew 6:11)
3. Read Hebrews 13:5 and 1 Timothy 6:6-8. What is needed for biblical contentment? Does this match your personal view of being satisfied? If not, then how can you become more closely aligned with God's provision for you?

EXPERIENCE

1. What are a human being's basic needs? Why do you think our culture has a negative outlook on those who lack these essential needs or require continual assistance?
2. What are some ways that people live beyond their means? What are some resources for living within your means? Share with the group what has helped you in the past.
3. How can we practice contentment? In what tangible ways can we adjust our lifestyles to be more reliant on God's provision than in our own efforts? List some ways that you can learn and practice contentment.

PRAY

Pray...Father, please give us our daily bread. May Your Spirit remind us when we stray from Your design for trusting in You. May we stay in perfect peace because we trust in You. Amen.

Action...Take time to thank God for His provision. Give Him glory for knowing you can trust in Him. Share with God your thankfulness for the gifts He has given. Ask for forgiveness if you are not content.