

Sunday, May 3, 2020

A Message from your Pastor

Warm greetings to all of you dear ones. Just think, God has brought you through this ordeal thus far and He will surely bring you through all the way, so be sure you don't become detached from your faith in God. In times like these, it is vitally important to be content. My message for you is centered around this very thought, that is; CONTENT.

God's Word says in Hebrews 13:5 – "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Let me point out two truths from this great verse. FIRST – To be **content** means to be fully satisfied. We are to be without covetousness (greedy of what others have). Just be satisfied with what the Lord may allow us to have materially, but there is so much beyond the material. There is health, family, church, friends, freedom and much, much more. SECOND – We must **claim** the promise that God will never leave us nor forsake us. We have the glorious presence of Almighty God always with us around the clock! After all the verse says: "...for HE hath said..." So be content with what you have, and enjoy the blessing of God's presence in your life. Be content in knowing that you have eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Another great verse is found in Philippians 4:11 – "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Herein the Apostle Paul tells us that contentment is a learning experience. FIRST – Let us be reminded that God may not always give us what we **want** but rather what we **need**. Paul further tells us in verse 12 that he knew what it was like to experience being abased. This word means to be depressed or totally humiliated. On the other side of the coin, he also knew what it was like to have enough and to spare. That is what the word abound means. There were times when he was full and times when he went hungry. Nevertheless, he remained content no matter what the circumstances were. You may say, "How can I be content if I am depressed, or hungry?" Verse 13 says: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." That, beloved, is how it is done. Verse 19 says: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." This supply

is proportionate or equal to the riches in Christ! You do believe this, don't you?

SECOND – Paul relates that this contentment was learned amidst **diverse circumstances**, “...in whatsoever state I am...” At the present time, the “state” that we are in has been both uneasy and unpleasant. Question: In what kind of “state” must you be before you are content? Let me give you an example of a very familiar individual. Fanny Crosby, was accidentally blinded in early childhood when the doctor put the wrong medicine in her eyes. Here are some words she wrote at age 8. “Oh, what a happy soul am I, Although I cannot see; I am resolved that in this world Contented I will be. How many blessings I enjoy that other people don't! To weep and sigh because I'm blind, I cannot and I won't.” Imagine what kind of influence her family had upon her for her to have such Godly insight without eyesight. What kind of Godly influence do you have on family and friends? We can be both thankful and content that the Lord is able to keep us and our families and friends safe from this deadly Covid-19 virus! At the same time, we need to pray for all those who are fighting this invisible fiend, both patient and worker.

The wise Apostle Paul writes to Timothy, whom he refers to as “my own son in the faith.” (I Timothy 1:2a) In I Timothy 6:6 he writes: “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” There is an important spiritual couplet in this verse. There are two traits that serve as “Siamese Twins”, that is, they are inseparable. FIRST – The number one trait listed is **GODLINESS**. This word means to be well-reverent, pious, devout, or godly. To manifest godliness we must deny self, devote ourselves to obeying God's word and follow the example He has set for us and disassociate ourselves from the teachings and philosophies of this present world. (Titus 2:11-12) – “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world:” SECOND - The twin to godliness is none other than **CONTENTMENT**, and we have already defined earlier what it

means. THIRD – Then the verse says that the result of having this duo in our lives provides **GREAT GAIN**. What is it that we are to gain? I believe the first and, most important gain for us is Christ-likeness! We can gain wisdom, discernment and spiritual foresight. Then, too we can gain spiritual power and become a real helping hand to those in need.

Here is something to think about. Paul said in I Timothy 6:7,8 – “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith **CONTENT**.” Just how many souls around the world do not even have these simple staples. We are so blessed, beloved.

Make it a point to practice being **CONTENT**. Ask the Lord to help you. Be content under a “stay-at-home” mandate. Be content when your work schedule is out of whack. Be content when your finances are tight. It is a benefit being with your family during this time of crisis. You may think: I never have time to read my Bible like I should. I never have time to stay in touch with others like I would like to. I never have time to pray like I need to. Well, it seems as if the Lord has given us all a bit more time to draw closer to Him. Remember what Paul said about learning to be abased and to abound. God will provide. Trust God and all will be well. Keep praying for one another and look forward to coming back together to worship our great God. Also pray for those families hard hit by Covid-19. Many are under great stress. Some cannot be with their dying loved ones. We cannot imagine what that does to families. Claim Romans 8:28-29 and keep trusting the Lord!

NOTE: Information that you need to know.

Our implement shed needs a new roof. The cost will be around \$400. Your help is greatly appreciated. Give what you can under these circumstances. Also do not forget that the church has expenses, and your help is needed. Remember to give God His tithe.