

THE

# HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest!" [Luke 10:2]

MAY 1994

No. 101

## CONTENTMENT

Contentment is a very elusive prize which everyone seeks in this life. The ideal of contentment in this country, the so-called 'American Dream,' is a family with a couple of kids who have a nice house in the suburbs, a couple of cars in the garage and a good income. This is supposed to be the 'good life.' But in reality, it has its problems and does not bring complete contentment to those fortunate enough to experience it.

In life everyone seeks to be happy and content, but people have very different ways of trying to find contentment. I have seen some who build their lives around a career and look for satisfaction and contentment through that

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career. And while it is certainly possible to be happy with your job, I don't believe that any job can make a person content with their entire life. Many doctors, lawyers, engineers and the like, put their careers before anything else in life. It often even comes before their families. So even if they achieve contentment in their professional lives, they have often made a mess of the rest of their lives in the process.

Others seek fulfillment through the amassing of money and material possessions. But this also will fail to bring satisfaction as the wise man Solomon tells us. *"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity."* (Ecc 5:10) Wealth cannot satisfy, because no matter how much a person gets he always wants more. As the old saying so aptly says, "money cannot buy happiness." It can make many things in life more enjoyable, but it cannot bring contentment.

Others seek contentment through fame and notoriety. But this also is a wasted venture. Fame only brings with it insecurity and pressure to continue your success. The more famous people in our society, professional athletes, movie and T.V. stars, and musicians, are far from being content. This is why their marriages fall apart so quickly. This is why so many abuse alcohol and illegal drugs. Despite their success contentment continues to elude them.

If the most successful and best educated people in our society cannot find contentment, then who can? And what chance does the average man have of finding it? Anyone can have total contentment very easily if he will only pursue it correctly. Again from the wisdom of Solomon, *"The fear of the Lord*

*tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abideth satisfied?"* (Pro 19:23) He mentions absolutely nothing about what kind of job a person might have, or their financial status, or their position in society. He merely states that if a person has the fear of God in his heart he will live a satisfied life. That is a powerful statement and one that runs contrary to man's logic.

Solomon's father, David, said, *"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety:"* (Psalm 4:8) David was a very contented man. He had many problems throughout his life, but he never allowed them to bother him. It is as he says here, I am not going to worry about anything because God will take care of me. Isn't that what contentment is all about, not having to worry about anything?

Christians should be the happiest, most contented people on the face of the earth. It bothers me when I see Christians who walk around with a long face all the time. And those who are constantly complaining about their problems. David said, *"Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart:"* (Psa 32:11) Being a child of God is a reason to celebrate. Every day of our lives should be lived in happiness.

The Apostle Paul understood quite well about contentment. This might seem strange considering all of the things he went through. He was imprisoned more than once, he was shipwrecked, he was beaten and left for dead, and he suffered many, many other things. Yet he said, *"I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content!"* (Phi 4:11)

How could Paul have possibly been content

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Lk. 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, and all correspondence to:

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when he suffered so much? Because he knew God was with him and would watch over him. And that whatever happened to him, eventually he had an eternal home awaiting him. So what did Paul have to fear? What did he have to worry about? Paul was as content with his life as any man could ever be. He knew his life had purpose and meaning. He knew he was accomplishing something.

We should take a lesson from Paul and find contentment in our service to God. If we are truly serving God and have put our trust fully in Him, then we will be content. If you find that you are not as content as you would like to be, and that you are continually worrying about one thing or another, then you are not as close to God as you need to be. True contentment can only be found in one place in this life. And that is in a deep, meaningful relationship with God. *"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."* (Heb 13:5)

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What type of market (gate) was beside the pool at Bethesda?
2. Moses told the people of Israel that God came to Mt. Sinai in order that the fear of Him would remain with them. What was this fear to prevent them from doing?
3. What will happen to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness?
4. According to Jeremiah, do the people of Judah and Israel know how to blush?
5. How many good kings did the Northern kingdom of Israel have?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Why did Elihu wait until last to speak to Job?     THE OTHER FRIENDS WERE OLDER (Job 32:4)
2. How did God make us, according to Psalms 139?     WE WERE FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE (Psa. 139:14)
3. What were people trying to do to the gospel of Christ in Galatia?     PERVERT IT (Gal. 1:7)
4. Who wrote the book of Titus?     PAUL (Titus 1:1)
5. When the sons of Judah captured Jerusalem, what did they do to it?     SET IT ON FIRE (Judg. 1:8)

*SOME PEOPLE NEVER DISCOVER  
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
PEACE OF MIND AND PIECE OF MIND.*

## *"BECAUSE OF THE ANGELS"*

*"For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels"* (1 Cor. 11:10). This verse has for centuries been the object of much uncertainty. What is meant by the terms, "power on her head" and "because of the angels?"

In these verses Paul refers, either directly or indirectly to the hair some fifteen times. As water in baptism is the element through which a beautiful symbol is depicted, and as bread and fruit of the vine serve beautifully as the symbols through which we partake of Jesus' death in the communion, even so does the hair serve as a symbol of subjection. To make any other application of Paul's teaching would be to disallow his reasoning. Man honors God by wearing his hair short, while woman honors God by wearing her hair long.

The phrase "power on her head" is a most effective way of expressing the woman's ability to demonstrate her subjection. As Jesus in John 10:18 expressed power over His own life to "lay it down" and to "take it again," so does the woman with her hair have power to demonstrate her will to submit to the will of God. This idea is also found in Acts 5:4 where the word "power" is used to speak of the ability of Ananias and Sapphira to sell their land and in Rom. 9:21 where Paul speaks of the potter's control over the clay.

As to angels, the Scriptures give us insight through Jesus' statement, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven THEIR angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 18:10). Early disciples acknowledged the presence of angels in the incident regarding Peter and Rhoda (Acts 12:15).

Much comfort is to be found in Hebrews' explanation, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Heb. 1:14). We can be confident, therefore, that God's people are watched over by His angels sent for our well-being.

To further understand the verse in question, it would be well that we first understand two others: Luke 15:7 and Ephesians 4:30. Jesus states in Luke, "Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth" and Paul in Ephesians says, "Grieve not the holy Spirit of God." If joy exists in heaven when a sinner repents, and if grief to the Spirit of God results from disobedience, so must the angels who minister unto us be made joyful when we obey God and grieve when we disobey. When Christian women (or men, for that matter) wear their hair improperly and thus disregard God's will, it surely brings grief to their ministering angels. Because of this and in appreciation of God's kindness in providing angels to minister to us, Christians should carefully adhere to Scriptural teaching regarding their hair.

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**CHRISTIANS HAVE  
FULL ASSURANCE OF:**

HOPE (Hebrews 6:11)

FAITH (Hebrews 10:22)

and

UNDERSTANDING (Colossians 2:2)

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
April 29 - May 1	Owens Road Church Prattville, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 9 - 13	Chestnut Grove Church Danville, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
May 13 - 15	Fayetteville Road Church Atlanta, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
May 23 - 27	Verona, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

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DID YOU CATCH IT LAST MONTH? Did you notice that last month's paper was a milestone -- issue #100? That means The Harvester has been in publication for over 8 years! And if it be the Lord's will, it can continue to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ for several more years. We have so many people to thank for the success of this "little paper":

- \* Those who contribute the articles which many of you have said you enjoyed.
- \* Those individuals who have contributed financially.
- \* Those who have sent names to be added to the mailing list.
- \* The Sun Hill Road and the Hokes Bluff congregations for their support.
- \* Ken and Nell Cobb who gather up all the address corrections for me (and whom I suspect have been paying the fees out of their own pockets!).
- \* Ben & Jackie Lett who still help me with the copier.
- \* Paul Cobb who helps with the printing of the paper when I'm in a bind.
- \* My wife and children for their patience and understanding and help with folding and labeling.
- \* And those who give me words of encouragement.

As always, please pray that the glory and honor and efforts that come from The Harvester be given to our Heavenly Father and that this paper will continue to serve His needs, not ours!

The Editor