

THE



“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)

August 2019

No. 404

GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT

The apostle Paul gave Timothy the following instruction.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. 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. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

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The word translated as godliness means piety, which is reverence and devotion to God. It describes an attitude that is centered on God and does that which is well-pleasing to Him. Contentment is the feeling of satisfaction one has with one's possessions, status, or situation. Godliness with contentment would be to set one's heart on God and on doing what pleases Him and be satisfied with the possessions, status or situation that God has given. The apostle Paul had learned godliness with contentment.

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Php. 4:11-13)

Paul had put his faith and trust in Christ. He knew that whatever his situation, God still loved him and would carry him through.

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Rom. 5:3-5)

Rather than concentrate on his earthly situation, the apostle looked forward and prepared for his eternal home in heaven.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

When you put your focus on being ready for your eternal home, you too can have godliness with contentment. The things of this life are all temporary and will pass away; our eternal home will never pass away.

You brought nothing into this world. When you were born, you had no clothes and no possessions. When you die, you also take nothing with you. I have seen a picture of a hearse pulling a trailer. Whatever the purpose of the trailer, I am still convinced that whoever died did not take any possessions with him to the next life. I do not believe it is wrong to make your situation in life better if you are able. We are required to provide for ourselves and for our own household (1 Tim. 5:8). If you can go to school or receive training or look for a better job to better provide for your household, then do it. From the Bible we learn that Paul, Aquila and Priscilla were tent makers; Lydia was a seller of purple; Luke was a physician; before they followed Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen. The problem comes when making money consumes you and you do not have godliness; you do not put God in first place in your life.

The problem may also be that you desire to be rich or that you love money. Such an attitude has many problems. Money becomes your god; it is more important than your Heavenly Father. Since money or being rich is so important, you are likely to compromise your godly principles. Truth, honesty, justice, mercy, and righteousness will likely be compromised in your search for riches or money. You will fall into temptation, a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts. You will love the things of this world rather than the things of God.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God

abideth for ever. (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

Money is not evil. But the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:10).

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. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Heb. 13:5-6)

My encouragement is that you have godliness with contentment. Put God first in your life; put your trust in Him that He will help you through the trials of life. Do not desire to be rich or love money, because it will pull you away from the faith and from God.

ED ANDERSON
(Sierra Vista, AZ)

PHILIPPIANS 4

(Part II)

Philippians 4:10 - But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

The fourth chapter of Philippians shows that Paul is thankful for the help that has been given to him from the Philippian people.

Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know

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how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Paul basically is saying that he is not asking for more but that he is content with what he has been given. He says that he has learned how to be ok no matter what state he is in, hungry or full, thirsty or not. He then gives a verse that is used a lot stating that he can do all things if he has Christ. He has the strength of Christ pushing him forward and helping him through any trials and tribulations that may come. Just like Paul, if we have Christ we have strength.

John 15:4-7 - Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

It is very simple, if we abide in Christ we have the ability to overcome obstacles and to succeed. Maybe not in this life but the next. It is not about having the most material things and asking for those, it is about asking for the right things and following God's will.

Communication is so important in everything that we do and was back then as well. The Philippian people did a good job of staying in communication with Paul.

Philippians 4:14 - Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

Paul is thankful for the help that he has received from the Philippian people. He says that no other church has done so

much to communicate about giving and receiving. Basically saying that no matter where he was, he knew that he could count on them to make sure that he was taken care of.

Philippians 4:15-17 - Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

Paul says that he is happy that they have done it, not because he wanted them to send gifts but because he knew that their giving would help produce fruit, something that we know is important to being a Christian.

Philippians 4:18 - But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Paul continues to show appreciation for what the Philippian people have sent to him. He also says that because of their giving spirit that God will supply their needs and that God should receive the glory.

Philippians 4:19-20 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

“If God be for us, who can be against us” (Rom. 8:31), “The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want” (Ps. 23:1), “I can do all things through Christ” (Php. 4:13). We are given many examples of strength and faith and know that the writers all got their strength from God. God supplies our needs (not to be confused with our wants).

Paul then closes with salutations both from him and from those that are with him.

Philippians 4:21-23 - Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you. All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Hopefully throughout this series, you have seen the importance of not just pulling verses out of their normal context. It is good to study not just topics, but letters and gospels and everything that is given to us in God's word. By studying a complete letter, you can get a better and more full picture of what the author intended and you might learn something new.

A. D.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What did the dove bring back to Noah?
2. What was on top of the Ark of the Covenant?
3. What was Solomon famous for building?
4. To which country did Mary and Joseph escape when Herod killed all the babies in Bethlehem?
5. At the age of twelve, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. Where did his parents find him?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

...and remember last month's questions?

1. Who lied to God when he was asked where his brother was? CAIN (Gen. 4:9)
2. Who was Jacob's mother? REBEKAH (Gen. 27:11)
3. A "soft answer turneth away..." what? WRATH (Pro. 15:1)
4. At what age did Jesus start his ministry? THIRTY (Luke 3:23)
5. What does a "good tree" bring forth? GOOD FRUIT (Mat. 7:17)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
July 28 - August 2	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Danny Abercrombie & Joe Hill
August 2 - 4	Owens Road Prattville, AL	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 9 - 11	Liberty Liberty, KY	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 16 - 18	Mount Carmel Road Gay, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
August 23 - 25	Chapel Hill Pell City, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
August 29 - September 1	Oak Grove Eubank, KY	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
August 30 - September 1	Willow Oak Russell Springs, KY	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

O Thou My God who raised the mountains and filled the seas

It is with humble heart I come and bow myself to Thee

Your Glory is in the sun, Your peace in the moon and stars

And though You are High and Holy

From me You are never far

May my heart sing of Your Glory, May my tongue declare Your
worth

For You are Lord God Almighty, over all in heaven and earth

May angels on high be filled with praise

And all in the Son rejoice

For it shan't be long till we on earth will hear His mighty Voice

Then every tongue will confess and every knee shall bow

Past and future will fade away, replaced with eternal Now!

SAM DICK