

CONTENTMENT

Phil. 4:11

Introduction: Every play "pleased or displeased?" Like the game, nobody is pleased today for very long at a time. Despite all the progress, increase of material things, there is discontent everywhere, nobody exempt. Practically everybody is displeased - dissatisfied, including God's own people.

Is there such a thing as **contentment**? Is contentment only a dream? Are we going to have to wait until we get to heaven to find contentment? True, we find a few moments, or hours at the most, is that all the contentment we shall ever have down here on earth?

Listen to what Paul had to say about contentment: **TEXT**

- 1. The force of Paul's statement will be better appreciated if we keep in mind his situation at that time.**
 - Not luxuriating in a special suite in the Emperor's mansion.
 - Not being entertained in some exceptional Christian's household.
 - Paul was in jail, in chains, a prisoner.
 - Yet he declared that he was "**content**."
- 2. What caused Paul to be able to utter the phrase of "being content in whatsoever state?"**
 - It was not his natural disposition or temperament.
 - It was not some special impartation from God.
 - Paul had learned something from his experiences while serving God.
- 3. Our idea of "contentment" is comfort and having "things."**
 - Congenial and comfortable surroundings.
 - Money enough to buy whatever we desire.
 - Being able to do whatever and go wherever, whenever we want.
- 4. Paul's idea of "contentment" is radically different from ours.**
 - His idea of contentment was being satisfied with what God wanted for him at that particular time
 - His idea of contentment was the opposite of murmuring and complaining.
 - His idea of contentment was being thankful that things were not any worse than they already were.
 - His idea of contentment was that God still cared for him.
- 5. There are some deadly hindrances to being content.**
 - Wanting things without good reason (covetousness).
 - Safeguarding for the future to an extreme degree.
 - Looking around instead of looking upward.
 - 1 Tim. 6:8 - 10

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Contentment is the product of a heart resting in God.**
- 2. Contentment is the soul's enjoyment of that peace that passeth all understanding.**
- 3. Contentment is that blessed assurance that God doeth all things well and is, even now, making all things work together for my ultimate good. (Romans 8:28)**
- 4. Contentment comes when the human will is brought into subjection to God's will.**
- 5. Contentment delivers one from worry, fretfulness, and selfishness.**
- 6. Contentment leaves one free to enjoy what God has chosen to give or to not give.**
- 7. Contentment is learned by daily fellowship with the Lord Jesus.**