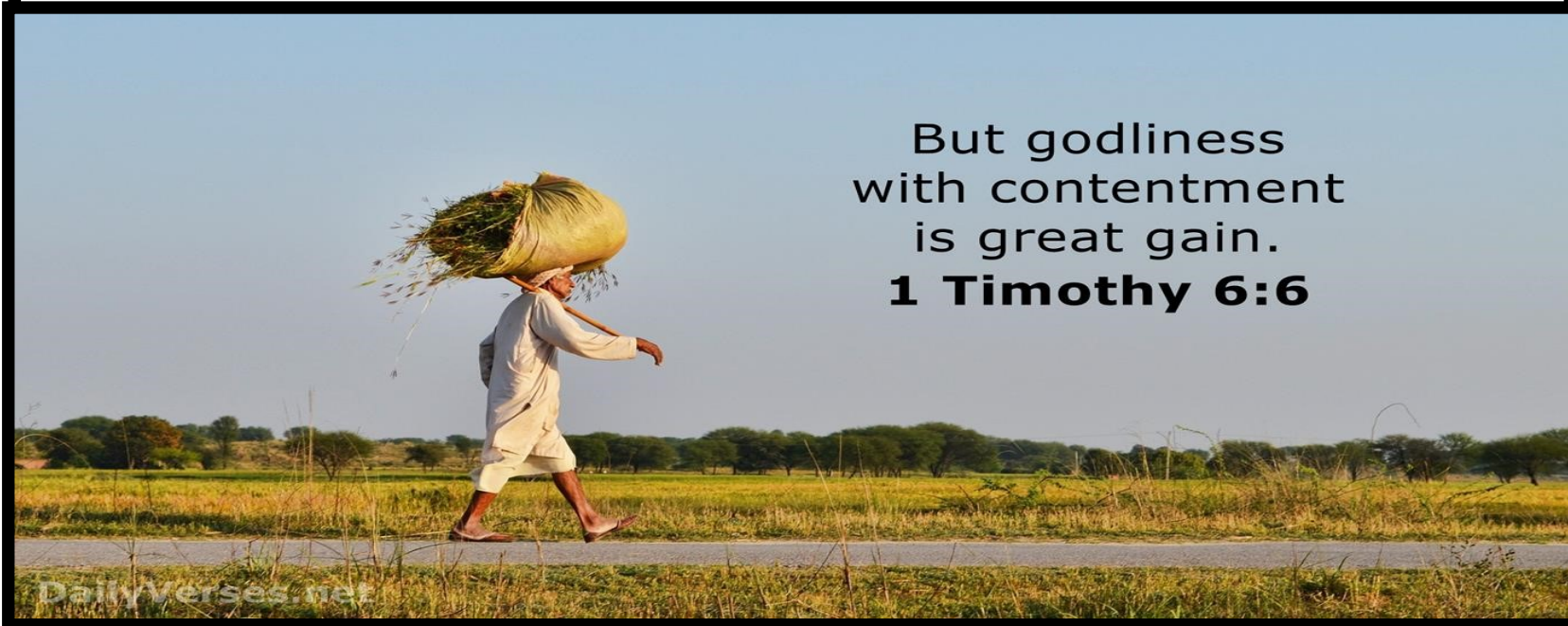




Make the rest of your life the best

**~ Learn the secret of godly
contentment ~**

But godliness
with contentment
is great gain.
1 Timothy 6:6



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All Nations' Centre
The Apostolic Church

Objective



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

- **My one objective for this sermon is that we will begin a journey that will make the rest of our lives the best that we can ever have by learning contentment.**
- **Learning contentment will make us better people to live with. Many will seek our company and services.**
- **Proverbs 17:22 New King James Version
A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.**
- **A contented heart is a merry heart and a merry heart does good, like medicine.**
- **On the other hand “It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.” Proverbs 25:24**



Paul learned contentment



- **Philippians 4:6 – 13**

10 ¶ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



The delusional rich man ~ 1



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

- **Luke 12:13 - 21**

13 ¶ Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?"

15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

17 "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'



The delusional rich man ~ 2



- **Luke 12:13 - 21**

18 "So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

19 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."

20 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."



The delusional Church



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

- **Revelations 3:14, 17**

14 ¶ "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked —

- **This is a brutal assessment of a very delusional Church. They were self satisfied but God violently disagreed with them.**



Godly contentment



- “Contentment is generally defined as a longer lasting, but a deeper feeling of satisfaction and gratitude”
- As we have seen from the parable of the rich fool and the letter to the Laodiceans contentment can be very subjective because it cannot be measured by a scientific instrument.
- Our sense of contentment can be real or delusional.
- I have qualified contentment with the word “godly”. This is because the one who is not interested in the things of God can claim to be contented and perhaps rightly so.



Happiness and contentment



- **What is the difference between happiness and contentment?**
- **“Happiness is generally defined as the experience of frequent positive thoughts, such as joy, interest or pride.**
- **Contentment is generally defined as a longer lasting, but a deeper feeling of satisfaction and gratitude”**
-



Contentment in the Ten Commandments



- Have you ever considered that the topic of contentment is at the core of the Ten Commandments?
- 6. 13 "You shall not murder.
- 7. 14 "You shall not commit adultery.
- 8. 15 "You shall not steal.
- 9. 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- 10. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour's."
- The contented person will not do any of these "You shall nots". They are outside the diocese of contentment.



What gives you a sense of worth?



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

- **What is it that gives you a measure of who you really are:**
 - 1. Titles**
 - 2. Positions**
 - 3. Possessions**
 - 4. Educational qualifications**
 - 5. Lineage**
 - 6. Looks**
 - 7. Station in life**



Adjectives for the discontented



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

1. Agitator
2. Whiner
3. Factious
4. Unhappy
5. Complainer
6. Ungovernable
7. Insurrectionist
8. Grumbler
9. Grouchy
10. Cranky
11. Unsatisfied
12. Subversive
13. Mutineer
14. Moaner
15. Griper
16. Mutterer
17. Ungrateful
18. Unaccommodating
19. Sorehead
20. Hard to please
21. Wet blanket
22. Quarrelsome person



Contentment is not the lack of problems



- **The fact that a person is contented does not mean that they have no problems, pains or momentary worries or concerns.**
- **Rather, people with the disposition of contentment will say “this too shall pass, the grass will grow and the sun will shine because God is in control.”**
- **As we shall see later, contented people have learned how to cope with whatever life throws at them, both good and bad.**
- **Have you heard the song through all the changing scenes of life? “Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ.”**



Contentment not complacency



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

- **Do not take my contentment for complacency, nor resting on my laurels - if indeed I have any laurels.**
- **Do not mistake contentment for lack of ambition or being clueless. On the contrary.**
- **I am contented because I know that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**
- **I choose my heart of contentment because my God has asked me not to be anxious but rather speak to Him through the great avenue of prayer at the throne room.**

Some thoughts on contentment



- Please do not mistake a contented person with one who is:
 1. Easily pleased (could be that he or she does not know any better)
 2. Anything goes (Cannot be bothered)
 3. Slapdash attitude to life (No sense of worth)
- Rather, one who seeks excellence in whatever one puts ones heart and mind to do.
- Not situational. Whether in time of war or peace contentment reigns within.
- It is the godly disposition or attitude to life.



Jeremiah Borroughs on contentment ~ 1



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

- 1. I offer the following description: Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.**
- 2. It is the frame of spirit that shows the habitual character of this grace of contentment.**
- 3. Contentment is not merely one act, just a flash in a good mood. You find many men and women who, if they are in a good mood, will be very quiet. But this will not hold. It is not a constant course. It is not the constant tenor of their spirits to be holy and gracious under affliction.**





- 4. Indeed, in contentment there is a compound of all graces, if the contentment is spiritual, if it is truly Christian. There is, I say, a compound of a great many precious ingredients, so it is in this grace of contentment, which we shall say more of in unfolding its excellence.**



Thomas Watson on contentment



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

- 1. It is hard to be content when poverty has clipped our wings! But, though hard, "contentment in poverty" is an excellent virtue.**
- 2. It is a sweet temper of spirit, whereby a Christian carries himself in an equal poise in every condition.**
- 3. When there is a tempest without, there may be music within.**
- 4. It shines with a fixed light in the soul. Contentment does not appear only now and then, as some stars which are seen but seldom; it is a settled temper of the heart.**
- 5. It is not *casual* but *constant*.**



Contentment is all pervading



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

- 1. Contentment comes when the peace of God rules your heart and mind. (Philippians 4:6)**
- 2. The base, the source, the well spring, the foundation from which one exists and operates.**
- 3. Not the moment by moment or momentary fluctuations of moods and anxieties.**
- 4. It is the bedrock, the default position to which one returns after brief sadness or concern.**
- 5. The dominant flavour or aroma that pervades your being and operations.**
- 6. Contentment is a heart that is resting in the knowledge that God is in control, at peace with the world and with itself.**



The contented person



- The contented person sees the hand of God in all of lives situations.
- The contented person holds a very high view of God; seeing God as the **ALL-SUFFICIENT GOD**.
- This is not naivety or foolishness but rather total dependence on the providence of God and resigned or submitted to His declared will and plans.
 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - “for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.” (2 Timothy 1:21b)



The secret of contentment



Desiring the secret of godly contentment



The secret to maintaining contentment is to have a heart and mind that is guarded by the supply of the peace of God that passes all understanding. This comes through sincere prayer.

We must learn contentment



Desiring the secret of godly contentment

- **Philippians 4:10 – 13 New King James Version**

10 ¶ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



Alternative reading



- **Alternative readings:**
 - I have **learned the secret** of being filled – New American Standard
 - I am **instructed** both - King James Version
 - I am **fully initiated** into all the **mysteries** Weymouth New Testament
 - I have been **initiated**, - Young's Literal Translation
- Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. – Isaiah 50:4b English Standard Version



Are you learning?



- **“Let me put you upon a serious trial. Some of you have heard much—you have lived forty, fifty, sixty years under the blessed trumpet of the gospel—what have you learned? You may have heard a thousand sermons, and yet not learned one. Search your consciences.”**
- **This word, "I have learned," is a word which imports difficulty. It shows how hard the apostle came by contentment of mind; it was not bred in nature. Paul did not come *naturally* by it—but he had *learned* it. It cost him many a prayer and tear, it was taught him by the Spirit. – Thomas Watson**



Contentment – Make the choice



I am contented because I choose to see your success as my success, your joy my joy and your victories are also mine victories. We are brothers and sisters, we are family from the same Father.

Desiring the secret of godly contentment

Conclusion of the matter



- **Hebrews 13:5**
Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for God has said:
"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."
- If you are married then be content with your spouse.
- Bless the Lord for your spouse and you may just be very pleasantly surprised when your eyes are opened to see what has always been there.
- How long will that take?
- I cannot tell you. Just start now and bless the Lord for the favour He has bestowed upon you.

