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*"Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound (Philippians 4:11-12).*

### I. My Contentment, His Glory

- a. God provides day-by-day grace. When Paul says, *I can do all things* it really means *all things*. Not just easy things. It means with Christ not without Christ. He knew the Spirit was directing him.
- b. Contentment does not mean doing without or just being happy with what you get.
- c. Remember we are supposed to ask God for the things that we lack, but we are to be content, even joyful, as we wait on the *addition* of God's provision.
  1. God's provision comes to us in addition or in multiplication. Because He is the God of increase.
- d. When we are content in God's provision, it glorifies Him.
- e. Whether we are low (humble living) or abound (excess) (v.12), God is there in the low times as we as the abounding times. (Heb 13:5)

### II. Contentment vs. Covetousness

- a. Remember God's plan is timed perfectly for every person. He already knows what you need before you realize there is a need.
- b. When we are not content, in Christ, we start to desire other things to satisfy the longings of our heart. Do you believe God knows exactly what you need exactly when you need it?
- c. The direct opposite of contentment is covetousness. The battle against covetousness is a battle against trusting in God's promised provision.
- d. Paul's *contentment testimony* is based on his personal relationship with the Lord. He had experienced the highs and the lows of life in Christ. God is the constant in the midst of turbulent circumstances. Do you have a *contentment testimony*?
- e. Paul *learned* to be content in difficult times.
- f. God provides based on His character.
  1. He will never give you anything you do not need.
  2. He will only give according to His will and Word.
  3. He gives and withholds in proportion to His love.
- g. In times of uncertainty we often lose sight of God's promises and are unwilling to be content.

### III. Application and Practice

- a. Contentment does not come naturally, it is a virtue that must be developed.
- b. Paul's secret to contentment: he focused on the purpose God called him to with no complacency.
- c. A contented spirit is a cheerful spirit – The one who is content does not murmur and complain against God. There is a distinction between complaining to God and complaining about God. When we complain to God we are bringing our problems and crying out to God for wisdom, grace, and help. When we are complaining about God we are attacking His character.
- d. A contented spirit is a thankful spirit – A contented spirit thanks and praises God at all times. It is easier to trust God when things are going your way.
- e. A contented spirit is not bound by circumstances – contentment works from the inside out
- f. A contented spirit will wait - We tend to want things that God does not want us to have or we want things now outside of God's timing. A discontented spirit will not wait.
- g. A contented spirit is a peaceful spirit – We must learn to trust God completely if we ever intend to enjoy peaceful living. Trust God in everything. Be willing to endure for a season.