

Rejoice in the Lord Always!

(a study in Philippians)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, Sept 5/6, 2020 Scott Fameli

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS! (A study in Philippians)

“JOY in Discontentment” Philippians 4:10-14

¹⁰I 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. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I 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. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

Three Principles to increase your Contentment (Satisfaction):

1) Be Connected to God's People.

Three joy producing things:

- Rejoicing in the Lord greatly. v10a
- Give the gift of Encouragement to others. v10a
- Shared the troubles of others and thank others for going to the trouble. V10b & 14, Gal 6:1-3

2) Be Comfortable with God's Providence.

God's providence means that...

- In His perfect love, He always want's what is best for you. (1John4:18)
- In His infinite wisdom He always knows what is best for you (Rom11:33)
- In His unstoppable power He will always do what is best for you as His child. (Eph1:19-23)

Contentment isn't...

- Loving everything just the way it is.
- A lack of drive to succeed.
- Fatalism.
- Laziness.

Contentment is...

- A Quiet spirit v11a Not that I am speaking of being in need...
- A learned ability v11 For I have learned x 2

- A knowable Secret 12c I have learned the secret...
- Not based on circumstances v12, Luke 12:15
- Believing Christ is more than enough. v13

Wise Advice:

- Avoid comparisons 2Cor10:12
- Lower expectations without lowering your commitment 1Tim6:6-8
- Adjust to variations v12, John 16:33
- Develop convictions Job 1:21

3) Be Confident in God's Presence.

- Contentment doesn't come from what we have but who we have. v13, Ps23:1&4, Heb13:5-6, Phil4:4
- The deepest and most enduring contentment is found not from Christ but in Christ. Ps63:3
- Intimacy with Christ is life's most satisfying reality. Ps73:25-26,84:10
- Intimacy with Christ is an enchanted reality in a disenchanted world. Ps 46:10

Growing Notes...

1. Discuss the three Joy producing things from the sermon notes and how difficult the circumstance Paul and the church in Philippi must have been in. Share personal accounts of when anyone of these joy producing things might have brought you to a place of contentment despite your circumstances.
2. Discuss God's providence as defined in the sermon notes and the scripture references. What has been your personal experience in learning to “be comfortable” with God's providence?
3. Consider the following *statement* as sort of a map for evaluating your process of finding JOY in Discontentment: *Our heart treasures determine our values. Our values guide our beliefs. Our beliefs drive our behavior. Our behaviors are engendered by our relationships.* [engender = beget, procreate, to cause to exist or to develop or give rise to a feeling, situation, or condition (think “birds of a feather flock together)]. Share scriptures that guide you, obstacles that hinder you, relationships that help or hurt you, and what you may need to do next in learning “the secret of facing plenty and hunger”.

