

LIVING ON PURPOSE PT. 4
THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT
1/25/2015

Philippians 4:10-19

I. Introduction

Living on purpose is about living in a way that as we come to the end of 2015 we will be able to say that this has been the best year we have lived for God so far in our life time.

- A. We've shared that the key we have learned from the book of Philippians is that we must live our life purposefully. We must live by our determinations not our situations, by our _____ not our conditions.
- *"We innately know that we were not born to live a mediocre life but born to live an extraordinary life for God."*
 - *"By its very definition being a Christian or a disciple means being someone who is _____ to live the life that Christ would want to live through them in every area."*
- B. One of the things we must learn to live this kind of life is the secret of contentment. An extraordinary life begins with learning how to live a contented life.
"Fixing our eyes on Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame and is set down at the right hand of God." (Hebrews 12:2)
- One of the main reasons many people fail to win their race is that they put their eyes on other people and constantly think about being somewhere else, having something else, or trying to be someone else.
- C. The word "contentment" means satisfied and _____. A contented person is a person who finds complete joy and fulfillment in Christ even as they radically serve God and live sacrificially for others.

II. 3 keys Paul gives us for living a life of contentment.

- A. Decide to make Jesus the _____ of your contentment. Contentment like every other virtue of the Christian life doesn't come from our perspiration, or our imitation; it comes from Christ's _____, filling our souls with His glory.
- *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13)*
 - *"Don't be drunk with wine but be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Eph. 5:18)*
 - *"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition, when infinite joy is offered us. Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at sea. We are far too easily pleased." C.S. Lewis*
 - *"The happiness which brings enduring worth to life is not the superficial happiness that is dependent on circumstances. It is happiness and contentment that fills the soul even in the midst of the most distressing circumstances and the most bitter environment. It is the kind of happiness that grins when things go wrong and smiles through the tears. The happiness for which our souls ache is one undisturbed by success or failure, one which will root deeply inside us and give inward relaxation, peace, and contentment, no matter what the surface problems may be. That kind of happiness stands in need of no outward stimulus." –Billy Graham*
- B. Change your attitude by choosing God's _____.

“Not that I was lacking anything, for I have learned how to be content. I know the secret of having plenty or with living with very little. (I have learned to live independently of my circumstances). I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:10-11)

Observations:

1. Paul teaches us that our attitude is a choice. We can't always choose our position in life but we can always choose our _____. He says right attitudes are things we can learn to have.
2. Our attitude changes and our contentment grows as we have a _____-centered “sufficiency” perspective instead of a circumstance-centered “deficiency” perspective.

Some examples of a God-centered perspective:

“But my God shall supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19)

- I am God's masterpiece, I have been especially designed by God. I therefore have the personality, the looks, the intelligence, the gifts and abilities I need to fulfill God's perfect plan for my life.
- God is in control of the exact circumstances that are now in my life and these exact circumstances are those He has chosen for the perfect unfolding of His plan and purpose.
- The sufficiency of Christ in me (His wisdom, joy, ability, power...) is greater than any problem I see or lack I feel on the outside of me. His joy is greater than my discouragement...
- There is no part of my weakness, my failures, or my past that is too big for God to redeem and make to be part of His plan to use my life in an amazing way for His glory, because where I am weak He is strong.

3. Changing our attitudes and perspective means learning to _____ our old attitudes and perspectives.
“Let this attitude be in your which was also in Christ Jesus, who though He was God did not grasp to His position But chose to empty Himself (Phil. 2:5-7)

- C. Discover that contentment grows not by getting but by _____. Paul specifically points out, it was because of their giving that they would see all of their needs met on the outside and on the inside.

1. Contentment doesn't stop when I stop getting but it does stop when I stop giving.
“I have never met a man who was truly happy who wasn't actively involved in serving others and trying to make their lives better.”

When contentment stops it inevitably means that there is some way I need to either give up to God, or give out to God or others in some way.

2. The greatest joy comes to those who purposely give not out of their surplus or what they already have but who give by faith to _____ in others and in themselves more of what they presently lack or don't feel they have.

“In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.” (2 Cor. 8:2)

(Answers: I. Decisions, attempting, sufficient II. source, habitation, perspective, disposition, God, surrender, giving, create)