

P	B	G	M	C	T	H	J	Z	Y	K	L	V	N	F	V	Q
M	L	N	R	Z	N	H	T	D	J	X	H	T	L	D	O	L
A	H	I	I	N	E	W	A	K	H	N	R	E	O	Z	M	W
M	R	M	G	K	I	U	E	T	J	Y	R	H	U	N	N	N
K	T	U	L	V	F	G	R	I	I	P	J	E	T	A	T	S
R	R	N	R	H	T	I	W	E	R	E	H	T	G	Q	G	M
Z	Q	H	T	K	R	E	V	E	O	S	T	A	H	W	M	P
H	H	G	W	M	G	X	P	O	P	K	V	L	D	A	M	R
J	P	L	I	H	M	J	W	C	T	O	V	O	X	E	W	O
A	W	S	C	A	Q	O	M	N	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	C
U	Z	R	V	V	B	K	E	H	G	J	T	N	A	W	T	M
X	U	C	O	E	L	T	G	Z	U	E	D	Q	E	V	P	Y
H	W	N	S	F	N	N	S	C	Y	J	Q	Z	M	K	I	J
Z	E	V	V	O	O	T	V	G	P	K	A	E	P	S	K	Q
K	G	L	C	P	E	P	G	O	R	X	Y	K	Y	I	U	M
L	E	A	R	N	E	D	F	T	Y	Q	I	I	J	E	V	Y
W	Z	G	F	Y	T	J	X	W	V	F	Q	A	N	B	K	C

Words to Find:	<i>in</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>am</i>
<i>Not that I speak</i>	<i>respect of want for I</i>	<i>learned in whatsoever state I</i>	<i>therewith to be content.</i>

A Contented Man's Shirt

Evangelistic Illustration

A story is told of a king who was suffering from a painful ailment. His astrologer told him that the only cure for him was to find a contented man, get his shirt, and wear it night and day. Messengers were sent throughout the king's realm in search of such a man, and with orders to bring back his shirt.

Months passed, and after a thorough search of the country, the

messengers returned, but without a shirt.

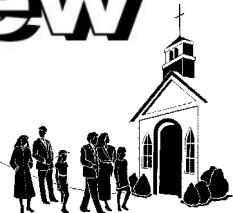
"Did you find a contented man in all my realm?" the king asked.

"Yes, O king, we found one. Just one in all thy realm," they replied.

"Then why did you not bring back his shirt?" the king demanded.

"Master, the man had no shirt," was the answer.

The **Bible View**

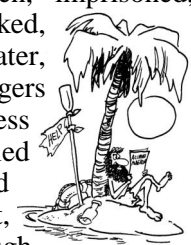
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The Good, the Bad, and the Unhappy

Bill Brinkworth

"... for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to be abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:11-13

Life is not easy. There are a lot of ups, downs, and speed bumps. For some, the difficulties and challenges are greater. Such was the case with Paul. His own testimony in II Corinthians 11 reveals that he worked long hard hours, was beaten, imprisoned, stoned, shipwrecked, stranded in the water, robbed, faced dangers in the wilderness and sea, was lied about, suffered hunger and thirst, and suffered through



the cold. Yet through all his hardships, he was able to pen, "... I

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You Just Get to Hold it Awhile

The King's Business

A wealthy man told a story of his poorer childhood. His early work was tending cattle. One day he wanted to be away and asked his sister to watch the herd for him. The arrangement was that she would watch the animals all day, and be able to hold a small, shiny coin, worth less than two annas, for the day and return it to him at night.

At the time, the very sight of money was a rarity. She spent a long, hard day caring for his cattle, holding the bright coin, and then returned it to him at night. She was quite content with the day's pay.

Years later, the rich man was telling the story to a stranger, and laughing at his sister's simplicity.

The stranger quietly remarked to the man of means, "That is all any of us get. You hold your wealth to the end of the day of

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The Good, the Bad ...

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have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” Here was a man that went through a lot, most of it while trying to serve the Lord, yet he was able to declare, “That whatever I go through, I am still happy!” What an attitude. I want some of that!

We now have a world that has much more than it would have dreamed of having 50 years ago, but with all the things they have, they still are not content. Things, despite the propaganda from the covet-vision and pleas from an unhappy population, do not fill the empty space everyone has and do not make one permanently content.

Not only does discontentment leave tremendous voids in one’s life; it can be sin. It can be sin, because it is God that provides all that we have. It is foolishness to say we have gotten anything without God’s help. Even the ungodly only have what they have because God allowed them to have the health, job, and opportunity to obtain anything they have. To not be content with what they have, is saying indirectly to God, “I don’t appreciate what you allowed me to have, and I want something else!” Gulp! When you look at it that way, it can clearly be seen as sin.

It can also be sin, because too

many are trying to be fulfilled by things. They never fill the gap in their lives that only can be fulfilled by living for and obeying God. Many have found out that as soon as they got that beautiful, shiny car that they coveted for a long time, another car attracts them and they say, “I wish I had gotten that car.”

Also, longing for something that someone else has is simply “covetousness”. The tenth of the “Ten Commandments” clearly lets us know, it is sin to not be satisfied with what you have and to covet what someone else has.

Those that have gained some victory over the human weakness of being discontent have many advantages. A content person will find that, since they are already happy with what they have, they will have genuine joy. When things are broken or taken away from them, their joy will not be lost; as it was never those things that gave them joy and peace in the first place. A content person will also find that they appreciate everything! This certainly is a different picture from one that is always unhappy, complaining, and never satisfied.

Several biblical principles are taught in I Timothy 6 that can help one get a better perspective on being content. They include:

❖ Anything you have is more than you started out with or de-

“Choose rather to want less, than to have more.” — Thomas Kempis

serve!

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” vs. 6

❖ If you have your needs met, everything else is an undeserved, unnecessary blessing. *“And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”*

vs. 8

❖ Too much of a good thing can be a snare that can trap us into unhappiness and discontentment, and lead us far from where God wants us.

“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: ...” vss. 9-10

❖ The true things that mark a successful person are righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness; not things! *“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. ...”* vss. 11-12

Christian, we do not have to be like the world. We can be content. After having the promise of heaven and the love of God all else is pure gravy!

Trusting that we have what God allows us to have can help us be more satisfied. He is the one in control; not us. We can be content during the good (abounding times), as well as the bad (abasing) times. We can be content no matter what we are allowed to go through in this life.

You Just Get to Hold ...

Continued from Page 1

of your life; then you give it up and have as little as before and the whole of your life is gone!” The wealthy man’s startled face showed that he realized he was no wiser than his sister.

“Why Didn’t I Say ...”

Praire Overcomer

Coming downstairs one morning, Lord Congelton heard the cook exclaim, “Oh, if I only had five pounds, wouldn’t I be content.”

Thinking the matter over, and anxious to see the woman satisfied, he handed her a five-pound note, then worth about twenty-five dollars. She thanked him profusely. He paused outside the door to hear if she would express her satisfaction and thank God. As soon as his shadow was invisible, she cried out, “Why didn’t I say ten?”

“Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.”

— Proverbs 27:20

“If the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, you can be sure their water bill is higher.”

— Laugh Book