

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Blessed

Bill Brinkworth

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." Psalms 1:1-6

In Psalms 1 of the Hebrew's "Book of Praises," we read of paths that two types of people travel. The two types of people this chapter speaks of are the "blessed," or happy, and the ungodly.

A person is happy if they do not follow the advice of those that are purposely not obeying God's commandments. He also is blessed if he does his best not to stand in the company of those that are in sin, and happy if he is not sitting and relaxed around them.

Christians are in a world that usually does not obey God or lives as He commands. However, we are to be a shining testimony to those ungodly folks to show them how the Creator wants us to live. When we are living, thinking, and participating as they are, they will see no difference. It is then that a Christian does not have an exemplary testimony and even puts another black eye on the cause of Christ.

If, however, the godly person resists the temptation of being like the ungodly majority and obeys to the best of his ability the Word of God, he will be content and happy. He will experience a more joyful life when he reads and strives to obey the Bible. He will often think and be guided by the Book's words.

When others around him fail and flounder, he will have solid footing. He will spiritually grow and produce many good works and will be that bright light that will show the world that there is a different way that rewards with happiness and peace. Quite often the obedient believer's efforts will be blessed by his Father in Heaven.

However, those that choose not to follow and live the way God commands will suffer. Their efforts and life will not produce anything that will last forever, as will the Christian. When the godly stand in judgment for what they have done for the Lord, the ungodly will not be there. They will be awaiting their separate, terrifying judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

The choice is simple: believe and obey or disobey and rebel. Most of us, however, want to have a happier life and that can only be realized when one adheres to God's commandments.

“Following God’s commandments are the only way to arrive safely Home.”

— Author Unknown

Be Content for “Now”

C. H. Spurgeon

Men in the days of Toplady looked back to the revivals of Whitfield. Men in the days of Whitfield looked back to the days of Bunyan. People in the days of Bunyan yearned for the days of Wycliffe, Calvin, and Luther. Men then desired the days of Augustine and Chrysostom. Others in those days longed for the days of the Apostles and doubtless men in the days of the Apostles wept for the days of Jesus Christ. No doubt some in the days of Jesus Christ were so blind as to wish to return to the days of prophecy. Some longed more for the days of Elijah than they did of the most glorious days of Christ.

Many people look more to the past than the present. Be content in the days you are in and make them glorious days where the Holy Spirit is working and doing wonderful things.

“When someone asked William Booth his great secret of happiness, he replied, ‘I never said no to the Lord.’”

The Good, the Bad, and the Unhappy

Bill Brinkworth

“Not that I speak in respect of want: 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 abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Philippians 4:11-13

Life is not easy. There are a lot of ups, downs, and speed bumps. For some, the difficulties and challenges are great. Such was the case with Paul. His 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. Through all his hardships, he was able to pen, “... I 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 they would have dreamed of having 50 years ago but with all the things they have, most are not content. Possessions, despite

the propaganda from the covet-vision and pleas from an unhappy population, do not fill the void most have in their life and do not make one permanently content.

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 we 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 be seen as a sin.

Our unhappiness can also be sin because too many are trying to be happy by acquiring 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 what they wanted, they long for something else.

"Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied." Prov. 27:20

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 have genuine joy. When things are broken or taken away from them, their happiness 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 also can help one get a better perspective on being content. They include:

- Anything you have is more than you started with or deserve!
"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: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." vss. 9-10
- The 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. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." 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 wants 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.

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