

“Enough is Enough!” **Philippians 4:10-23**

Introduction: Kids. Thank Dan... Talking Jesus (Vision Slide: Share your Story)... Next Week: Overcome Series: Hypocrisy, Brokenness, Desires, Death. Today: Philippians 4:10-23 - Pg. ____
Enough is Enough.

One of the greatest predicaments of our souls today is the fight to find contentment. We live in a more for me kind of culture. We live in a world that tells us we do not have enough.

- Magazines tell us we are not beautiful enough or sexy enough or fit enough.
- Marketing schemes tell us that we don't have enough.
- Social media tells us that we are not happy enough, successful enough, or loved enough.
- When we hang with friends, we automatically start the comparison game. Let me remind you how this works.
 - Just last night we were at birthday party for a precious little lady named Leona. She turned one! She had her little multi-colored tutu on, her pink headband, her big beautiful eyes kind of sparkling at each person that showed her attention.
 - You know the celebration was all about her, but even then I found myself being concerned about me.
 - Now, this was super subtle, but this cat named Manny rolled up in there with his cool urban sneaks, this smooth Navy zip up jacket, and a fresh Dominican Republic new Era hat, complete with the flag on the side, and all of the sudden I found myself thinking, Man, I wouldn't mind having all three of those items *and* I'm not even from the DR.

We hear a voice saying: “The grass is greener. Things could be different. You're missing out.”

When will enough be enough?

This is not a small issue. It's not just stuff. The consequences of our discontentment are grave.

- Discontented hearts not only lead us to complain and question God's goodness, but they are the reason why people rarely enjoy their work, go into suffocating debt, and cheat on their spouses.
- Discontented hearts rob us of the peace, purpose, and joy God desperately wants us to experience.

Discontentment will leave our hearts running ragged, but there is hope today...

T: The promise contained in Paul's words tells us...

Point: You will always have enough when Jesus is enough for you.

I want to give you two encouragements. The first deals with how you can gain contentment. The second addresses the result of contentment.

I. Learn contentment through the provision of Christ (4:10-13).

What is contentment?

- **Contentment says: “Enough.”** If you walk away with that understanding and that as a prayer (God, be enough for me, you are enough for me), you will be on your way! But here’s a more robust description...
- Jeremiah Burroughs in his classic, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*, says: **“Contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God’s wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.”**

Paul begins by telling us twice that he learned contentment.

Contentment is learned in God’s school of life.

1) It has to be learned, because it is not natural.

- We are creatures of desire, always look for more. We want things that do not belong to us. From the earliest moments of a baby’s speech, two of their favorite words: “No. Mine!”
 - This is why we don’t just notice an attractive person walking across the street but we linger or even stare.
 - This is why we shop and spend away our savings on another home improvement that no one is ever really gonna care about but us.
 - This is why we don’t rejoice for other people when something good happens for them because we want what they have.
 - Comparison reveals our insecurities, and insecurities reveal our discontentment.
- This is why Burroughs went on to say: **“A gracious heart is contented by the melting of his will and desires into God’s will and desires.”**
- When we want what he wants, when we bend our desires to his desires, we find contentment, silence of the soul.

2) It often takes many seasons of life and circumstances to learn contentment.

- Think about that. Paul, one of the greatest heroes the church has ever known, was not always content. He had to grow in this, and so do we.
- He learned contentment over the ups and downs of life.
 - He had to take some courses in humility. He was brought low. In a different letter to another church he talks about his: “afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger” (2 Corinthians 6:4)
 - And by the way, Paul is not saying he enjoyed all of that, but he knows how to be content.
 - But we also need contentment in prosperity. Paul knew great victory as well. 100s of people believing in Christ. Churches being started in city after city. Standing up to the greatest philosophers and kings.
 - Through it all, God was building contentment in him, so that now Paul can say: ANY situation, EVERY situation. I AM Content. Put me in prison, set me free: I have rest in my soul.

What present circumstance is God using to teach you contentment? (H/T Altrogge, 80) [Are you struggling as a *parent*? Rocky *relationship*? Perhaps you're being ridiculed in some way because of your *faith*? OR maybe you're flying high because of a *new work opportunity*? Maybe you're grateful because your hard work is paying off?]

T: You've heard it said: "Experience is the best teacher." That's not true. Experience is the best teacher when our experience is found in Christ. That's what Paul tells us in verses 12-13.

Contentment is learned through the secret of Christ's sufficiency.

- Who doesn't like to be "in the know"? We all want a little inside information.
- Paul says, Jesus takes you behind the curtain. He whispers in your ear. When you receive his gift of life, he shows you the way, which sadly reminds us, not everyone understands this, not all experience contentment in any circumstance.

Verse 13 makes it explicit: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

- This verse is often misunderstood and certainly misapplied.
- It's March Madness... NBA playoffs are around the corner... Many of you know... I'm thinking about getting back into coaching... Every FCA poster, Bible, I love Fellowship of Christian Athletes. 4:13 was everywhere. What did it mean? Not that I can have a quiet soul when there's no food on the table. It meant, I can be the best. I can win the championship, through Christ (point up) who strengthens me.
- Sure we should do all that we do, "through him," but Philippians 4:13 is not in the Bible so we can slap it on to our pursuit of success.
- Stoicism was one of the most popular philosophies in the first century. The Stoics believed people realize contentment through self-sufficiency and the ability to resist the force of circumstances based on one's own willpower. (Hansen, 310, from Vincent). In other words, we find the resources within.
- Paul was no Stoic. This is *not* about self-sufficiency at all. Contentment will not be found by our own willpower or resources within.
- Contentment comes as we depend on God. It found in resources outside of us. Foreign aid!
- [Contentment is a gift of God's grace produced in us by the Holy Spirit. It is a "fruit of the Spirit."]
- If we have Christ, we have his power to strengthen us for every situation. **"For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:10)**
- Many of you have no earthly reason to be content. BUT your contentment can tell the story of Christ.

- Have you ever thought to yourself: If I have this, nothing else matters...
 - If I can pass that test, nothing else needs to go right for me the rest of the month. P
 - If I have their love, I can lose all others. P
- This is what it is like when we possess Jesus. Because I have him, I NEED nothing else.
- When we can sing: “All I Have is Christ.” When we can say with Paul: “To Live (if I’m breathing) CHRIST,” contentment is ours!
- You will always have enough when Christ is enough for you.

App: So here’s an obvious encouragement toward contentment. SEEK more of Christ!

- Fill your life with more of Christ and watch your “need” for everything else slowly fade away.
- Fill your life with more of Christ and watch your contentment skyrocket, to the point where it becomes reflexive.
 - Check out that greener grass... Nah, I’m content.
 - But wouldn’t your life be better... Nah, I’m content.
 - Don’t you think if you had just one more... Nah, I’m content. Jesus is enough.

T: We learn contentment through the provision of Christ, but there’s no reason to stop there. We should . . .

II. Let contentment motivate generosity to others (4:14-23).

Read 14-19

How could the Philippians give generously? They were content. We have enough, so we can give, and even if our giving makes us needy, we can still give because Jesus is enough.

The generous meet needs (16).

- Remember, Paul started this church. There was a deep bond of affection between them.
- When Paul was in need, they rushed to help. When he was in Thessalonica, they sent him support multiple times.
- Now he is imprisoned and they send him what is presumably a generous gift. Why else would they send a messenger all that way?
- Partnership is essential to mission. Redemption Hill would not be where we are today apart from the radical generosity of many individuals and churches who have helped us on our journey (I’m talking 100s of 1000s of dollars, plus prayer, plus teams to come and help us serve our city).

The generous gain spiritual credit (17).

- Here we have an image from the business world. We could call this the economics of the kingdom.
 - When you lose, you gain. When you’re last, you’re first. When you serve, you’re great.
 - When you give, you get.
- I am not saying, “Sow your seed of \$1000 and you’ll receive \$10,000.”

- I am saying: Give generously as God leads you to give and watch bless you with a deeper experience of what it means to be like Jesus. That's the miracle no amount of money could ever provide.

The generous please God in their worship (18).

- These were acts of devotion. At expense to themselves, they offered something for God's sake.
- They did not do it because they were rich!
- Listen to what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 8: ["We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints" (2 Corinthians 8:1-4)]
- Finally...

The generous will not be overlooked by God (19).

- This is a great promise. God will meet our needs. The promises of God boost our contentment and generosity.
- Let me show you how this works.
 - **Hebrews 13:5-6, says: "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have."** Don't love money, NOT EASY. Be content with what you have (you mean, right now? Yes.) NOT EASY.
 - **How?!? "for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" (13:5-6).**
 - Another example, many friends come and go. Will be content when the next one leaves? Will you believe the promise, "your God will supply all your needs"?
 - "There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18) JESUS.

At Redemption Hill, we want our contentment in Christ to drive us toward generosity.

- It's so easy to think about these words in generic rather than personal terms? Oh yeah, we want to be a Philippian-like church. Sure! We want to be so content, that our contentment naturally overflows into generosity.
- Do you know what that means? P. We starts with me. This is personal. For RHC to be generous, I have to be generous.

Listen, when Jesus is enough, we get the grace and God gets the glory. (20-23).

- Verse 20 is a word of praise to God. (Cf. 2:11)
- Verse 23 - I love how Paul ends his letters, always on a personal note. Don't disregard these words.

- Paul was in this thing because he loved God and loved people.
- Jesus died to bring people together. Greet every saint *in Christ Jesus*. The people with me greet you. The saints around here, also greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.
- And Paul ends his letter with a few powerful words: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit."

Conclusion:

I want to end this message like Paul ends his letter, on a personal note. The theme verse from this letter is found in 1:21: **"To live is Christ."**

Have you found Christ to be your life? How you discovered that we all live with a poverty in our soul until it is filled with Jesus?

- Jesus wants to make you rich, with a wealth that will never fade away! 2 Corinthians 8:9: **"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."**
- Jesus did not cling to his status or wealth but "humbled himself" by becoming like us; he "humbled himself" to the lowest place, dying the most despicable death, in our place, for our sin. He became poor, so that, we through his poverty might become rich.
- Today, maybe you would say for the first time, "I need his generosity. I know I am spiritually bankrupt before God. My soul is tired and restless. I need everything Jesus wants to give me in his infinite riches." Hold out your hands and receive the gift.

For those of you who were already saying with Paul, "To live is Christ," are you remembering that everything you ever wanted is found in him? All of the reasons for your discontentment are resolved in him!

- Are you trying to accumulate more material possessions? Jesus is the "treasure hidden in a field."
- Are you seeking another sexual experience to provide you temporary satisfaction? Jesus is "the bread of life," and if you go to him, you'll never hunger or thirst again.
- Do you long for better friendship? God made you for himself and Jesus is the friend that sticks closer than any brother or sister ever could in this life.
- Do you want peace in the midst of anxiety? Jesus is called "the Prince of Peace."
- Are you tired of the rat race? Jesus says, "Come to me and you will find rest for your souls."

There is nothing we long for in this life that we will fail to find in Christ.

You will always have enough when Jesus is enough for you.