

Pastor's Corner

Godliness with Contentment

July 15, 2009

Dear Friend,

We've been talking about contentment, and last week we saw how Paul says that he's learned to be content in whatever situation he finds himself in. In plenty or in want he says that he's learned the secret of being content. And the secret is this: *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

But there's a major danger area when we talk about contentment, and that's being content with your Christian experience. You see, we can never be content with where we are spiritually, but we must always be getting closer to Christ. David talks about this experience like a deer panting for the water when he's thirsty. In Philippians we find a strong call to not be content spiritually, but for each of us to "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling," remembering that "it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." (2:12, 13)

So how do we balance this seeming contradiction between being content with life and not being content with our spiritual life? We find the answer in 1 Timothy 6:6: "But godliness with contentment is great gain." That word "godliness" means reverence, respect, piety towards God, holiness. And that's what we want, isn't it? So there's two things we need to work towards.



Godliness, which is our relationship with Christ, and being content in all the other aspects of our lives. You see, there's nothing that we can take with us into the next life, so we must not let stuff be the focus of our lives down here. The text goes on to say: "For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and

harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." (verses 7-10).

Are you content with what you have? When you have God, it's then that you can be content with everything else. "Be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" Hebrews 13:5.

I'm praying for you!

Mark