

## CONTENTMENT

### 1. Image:

- a. Rolling Stones, "I Can't Get No Satisfaction."

### 2. Contentment is:

- a. Desiring nothing on earth besides God.
  - (1) **Ps 73:25** 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
- b. Occupying ourselves with what God has placed right in front of us.
  - (1) **Ps 131:1** 1 Yahweh, my heart is not lifted up. My eyes are not raised too high. I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvellous for me.
- c. Contentment is characterised by:
  - (1) Calmness and quietness of soul.
    - (a) **Ps 131:2** 2 ...I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother. Like a weaned child is my soul within me.
- d. The opposite of contentment is envy, greed, and grumbling. See *Envy*, *Greed*, and *Grumbling*.
  - (1) Envy.
    - (a) **Ex 20:17** 17 You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's.
  - (2) Greed.
    - (a) **1 Ti 6:9-11** 9 ...Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.

### 3. All we really need is a relationship with God and others, and our basic necessities.

- a. We are to be content with food and clothing.
  - (1) **1 Ti 6:6-8** 6 Godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.
- b. God promises to provide food, drink, and clothing for us.
  - (1) **Mt 6:31-33** 31 ...Do not be anxious saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- c. We are to be content with what we have.
  - (1) **Hebrews 13:5-6** 5 Keep your life free from love of money and be content with what you have. For he has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 So we can confidently say, The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?
- d. It is far better to be righteous and have little than to be wicked and have much.

(1) **Ps 37:16** 16 Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked.

#### 4. The basis of our contentment is God's sovereignty, love, and wisdom

a. All things work together for good for those who love God.

(1) **Ro 8:28** 28 ... We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

b. God will not abandon us.

(1) **Heb 13:5-6** 5 Keep your life free from love of money and be content with what you have. For he has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 So we can confidently say, The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?

(2) **Ps 37:25** 25 I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.

#### 5. To be dissatisfied with God and what he gives is a great evil.

a. It is God's prerogative to give and take away.

(1) **Job 1:20-22** 20 Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, fell on the ground, and worshiped. 21 And he said, Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be the name of Yahweh. 22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

#### 6. Satan invites us to try to be content without God.

a. **Jer 2:13** 13 My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

(1) Are you abandoning the fountain of living waters?

(2) I.e., Deepak Chopra, Eckhart Tolle, Oprah Winfrey, Buddhist meditation, yoga, mindfulness.

#### 7. Our contentment pleases God very much.

a. God chooses and brings near those who are satisfied with his goodness and holiness.

(1) **Ps 65:4** 4 Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

b. We are to desire nothing on earth besides God.

(1) **Ps 73:25-28** 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ...28 For me it is good to be near God.

c. Godliness with contentment is great gain.

(1) **1 Ti 6:6** 6 Godliness with contentment is great gain.

#### 8. The secret of contentment in all circumstances is doing all things through Jesus.

a. **Php 4:11-13** 11 I [Paul] have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every

circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

- b. We need Jesus' strengthening to be content in all circumstances.
- c. No true contentment exists outside of Jesus.