

The Secret of Contentment

Philippians 4:11-12

Introduction: The secret of contentment is one well worth knowing. The Greek word “autakeia” means to be entirely self-sufficient. The general idea is to be free from outside circumstances. The Apostle Paul personified the definition.

I. Contentment Viewed Positively and Negatively

- A. Don't be content in:
 - Living in sin, Romans 6:1-2
 - Doing nothing for the cause of Christ, Titus 2:14
 - Yourself, Philippians 3:12-14
- B. Positively, in the life of Paul
 - Live in prosperity and remain faithful to God
 - Live without a love for
 - Money, 1 Timothy 6:6-10
 - Youth, growing old gracefully, Ecclesiastes 12
 - Physical health, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
 - Praise of others, Matthew 6:1
 - Having your own way

II. Becoming Content In Life

- A. Three evidences of discontentment
 - Murmuring, complaining, 1 Corinthians 10:10
 - Anxiety, Philippians 4:6
 - Fear, Philippians 4:7 Romans 8:31-39
- B. Three Basic Elements of the Secret of Contentment
 - A realization that earthly things don't last, Eccl 1:8
 - Confidence in the providence of God, Hebrews 11:6
 - The presence of God in life, 2 John 9
- C. How Paul learned Contentment
 - Not by accident
 - Contentment is the byproduct of
 - Discipline Hebrews 12:11
 - Trust, 2 Timothy 1:12
 - The veracity of God's promises, Philippians 4