

Title: Discontentment Can Be a Good Thing

Text: (Phil 3:7-15)

I cannot be Contented without being Discontented

(vs 7-8) Paul references his earthly Accolades & Pedigree listed in Verses 4-6.

Paul recognized them as Foolish/Temporal.
They will not be remembered for eternity.

(Vs 9-11) Paul Expresses His value of Eternal things

(Vs 12-14) Paul Expresses His general Discontent.

(Phil 4:11-13) *Not that I speak in respect of want:*

(I Have All I really need from God)

*for I have learned, (It Didn't Come Naturally)
in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

Content~quiet; not disturbed; having a mind at peace; easy; satisfied, so as not to repine, object, or oppose.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: (I have been in Poverty & Prosperity)

(Hungry & ready to Bust)

every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, (Still Be Hungry)

both to abound and to suffer need.

(The Reason Paul was Content)

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Paul new to never let his current circumstances or situation to deter his drive for God.

(Phil 3:13) *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: (I have not Arrived)*

but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, (Not Satisfied with my efforts thus far)

& reaching forth unto those things which are before,

(Phil 3:14) *I press (Actively, with conscious effort) toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Just as Tithing is NOT about Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice....

Our Service to God Its NOT about Equal Production, but Equal Effort.

(Matt 25:14-30) *Several Ability*

Don't be guilty of comparing your accomplishments or performances with those of any other person. To do so is to lessen your own effectiveness & frustrate the grace of God. You are you, & to be envious of someone else's more will make you become less.

Let God make YOU the Best YOU He can make for His glory.

Paul said we are to have this Mind set.

(Phil 3:15) *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded:*

Paul said if we don't, it will evident to all.

and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

He says he is contented, but not contented?

It seems like a contradiction or Paradox.

He is contented with what He Has, but He is NOT Contented with what He has Done!

He says he is contented with what he has acquired, but he is not contented with what he has attained!

He says he is contented with his surroundings, but he is not contented with what he has Accomplished.

Illus: His Surroundings – He is in the Mamertine Prison in Rome.

It was dark, no natural light.

It was filthy, no sanitation or sewer.

He had to fight off the rats for his food.

He said I am contented with where I am, but I am not contented with what I have done for God.

He wrote 2/3 of the New Testament.

Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thesilonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews.

He started countless churched across the Mediterranean.

Lystra, Corinth, Ephesus, Thyatira, Philippi, Galicia Colloci , Thessalonica, Athens, Crete, Etc.

Attaining is more important than Obtaining

I am contented with I have Obtained, but I am not contented with what I have Attained. Vs “*I follow after*” –**I am not Through yet!**

I am contented with what God is choosing to accomplish through me, but I am not contented with what I am doing for God

We all need Personal Goals – We all have Career goals, Financial goals, family goals

We need Spiritual goals – Bible Reading, Memory, Soul Winning, Giving,

Goals should be progressive. W/o an end point.

We should be making new goals all the time

Illus: whats my goal for FBC?

To go to the next level.

“I’m pressing on the upward way, new heights I’m gaining every day, Still praying as I’m onward bound, Lord plant my feet on Higher ground.”

Salvation is a 1 time event: The Christian life is a journey, from the Cross to a Crown.

None of us “Arrive”, until we “Arrive” in Heaven
Attainment is a Momentary satisfaction
Progressing in the Christian life is more important than Possessing things in this Earthly life.

Achieving is more important than Achievement.

Natural life is a process of growth,
from the cradle to the grave.

Illus: *We started in a 2 bedroom apartment, went to a 2 bedroom house, then a 3 bedroom house, then Back to a 2 bedroom house, to a 3 bedroom house, then back to a 2 bedroom house then to a 4 bedroom house, then back to a 3 bedroom house, to a 4 bedroom house, now to a 3 bedroom house.*

All of them Fixer-upers.

I’ve loved it.

Every time I have moved, I get to buy new tools.
I get to try new things.

If I had just inherited a house that was new,
I wouldn’t know how to do anything.

Attaining is better than Obtaining

If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn’t change it.

I Love Progress!

Paul was saying that he is an old man, but he isn’t satisfied with what He had accomplished for God.

We need to put as much effort into God’s work as we doing our hobbies or our career.

*How many times have we read the bible through?
How many times will you read through it in 2019?*

Set a Goal!

Tell someone to hold you accountable.

DO IT!

3ch/day Bible in a year

5ch/day Psalms /Month

9ch/day NT/Month

We need to put as much effort & investment into our service to the Lord as we do our Golf game, Hunting, Fishing, Side Business, Our Yard, Little League, or our Civic Work.

There is nothing wrong with these, but if we would be honest, We spend more time planning, practicing and accomplishing in our hobbies, Leisure, and Home Projects than we spend time planning, practicing and accomplishing our service to God.

How many people have we led to Christ this year?

If we died today & stood before Jesus;
with the scars in his hands, feet, side and brow,
would we be satisfied w/ what we had done for him?
Or proud of what we accomplished on our hobbies?

God Forbid!

Quit Being Satisfied!

Paul said, I am content with what I have, but I am not content with what I have done for the Lord!

Has all your family heard the gospel?

How about your Co-workers?

Paul's attitude was that he was not satisfied!

I'm tired of mediocrity, Aren't you?

People don't Actually Say they are satisfied.

But when I challenge them to grow

They make excuse,

"I know I ought to, but..."

"I am all I can right now"

Or worse:

My walk with God is Fine!

Meaning - they aren't planning to grow anymore in..

Sanctification, Separation, Commitment,
Consecration, Bible Reading & Study, Faith,
Holy Spirit Power, Answered Prayer, Service.

I'm tired of people on Christian radio talking about losing ground to the world, we are Winners.

I want to win back that which we let go when we were satisfied.

How did prayer and bible get voted out of the schools. Christians were satisfied with what they had accomplished, so they did nothing.

How did we get a world where the gay and lesbian lifestyle is accepted? Christians were satisfied with their little churches, and we did nothing.

I HATE LOSING. I'M TIRED OF PEOPLE ACCEPTING IT AS ok!

Paul said, *I haven't been everywhere I want to go yet.*

I haven't preached all the sermons I want to preach.

I haven't witnessed to everyone I want to witness too.

I haven't started churches everywhere I wanted to.

I haven't won all the souls I want to win.

I haven't had all the victories I want yet.

It will mean More Work!

Paul knew, if he did more, it meant more struggles, hardships, beatings, shipwrecks, Friends forsaking him, family turning on him. More Time, More Effort, more enemies, more tears, more jail time, more heartache. BUT....

There is no Birth w/o travail

No Medals w/o Battles

No Overcoming w/o Obstacles

No Crowns w/o Crosses

No Resurrection w/o a death
No Garlands w/o a race
No Mountain top w/o crossing a Valley.
No Parades w/o Victory.
No healing w/o sickness
No Joy in the Morning w/o a Dark Night.
No Movement w/o Friction
No Deliverance w/o Bondage
No Perseverance w/o struggle
No Comfort w/o sadness
No winning w/o and opponent
No conquering w/o and enemy
Somebody better say AMEN!
No Comeback w/o a Setback
No Rising w/o falling
No help w/o need
No Burning bush w/o crossing the desert
No red sea w/o Pharaoh on your heels
No vision of heaven without being stoned & left for
dead at Lystra!

We need to stop being defeated about where we are
at in life, & put our effort into accomplishing
something for God.

**This is not where you ended up in life, This Is
Where You ARE!**

Stop Reacting and Start Acting!

Don't let handicaps steal you Discontentment.

Well this is all I will ever be.

I'm a cripple, so was Jacob

I can't speak in front of people,

neither could Moses.

Illus: *Moses was a yankee with a terrible accent.*

I can prove it from scripture.

(Num 20:10) *Hear now ye Rebels.*

FDR ran the country from a wheel chair.

Fanny Crosby wrote all those hymns while blind

John Bunyan spent 12 years in prison for preaching.

**Tommy Tillman is reaching Mongolians with a
bad heart and diabetes.**

*No-one ever done anything for God that didn't have
a time when they had to say...*

"I'm gonna keep going!"

Falling Down is not Sinful, Not getting back up IS!

Those Lepers crawl to church on their stumps.

They crawl to the market each week to witness.

They crawl to the neighbors to invite them to church.

Don't let age steal your discontentment

Old age starts at contentment.

*When I am satisfied with what I have done for God,
then it's time for the Nursing Home!*

When you say you are satisfied with what you have done, and what you have become; then you are old.

We all need to get discontented with ourselves and get us and do something for God!

Mrs Mix and I have decided to stop growing old!
We still carry on like newlyweds, We end up falling a sleep and taking a nap, but at least we are still going!

I am 52 and younger than ½ of you 20 somethings.

I hate the status quo-

(Amos 6:1) *“Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion!*

*Paul, an old man, 30 years after he is saved saying,
“I’m satisfied with my surroundings & possessions,
but I am not satisfied with what I have done for God.*

Are you satisfied with the kind of husband you are?

Are you satisfied with the kind of Wife you are?

Are you satisfied with the kind of Church member you are?

Are you satisfied with the kind of Sunday School teacher you are?

Are you satisfied with the kind of soul winner you are?

Are you satisfied with the kind of fruit bearer you are?

We are commanded to bear fruit.

Are you satisfied with the amount you have born for the Lord?

Are you satisfied with your service to God? NO?
Then what are you doing about it?

Illus: Bro. El. Lived the majority of his adult years with Mialstenious Gravis. Made him weak and baby.

He would save his strength to go soul winning.
He then was diagnosed with stomach cancer when his intestine ruptured due to an unknown tumor.

He would witness to RN, DRs, Techs

The Chemo had robbed him of all his strength.
He could barely swallow.

He would sit on the couch, with the phone book in his lap, and his head in his hands weeping.

“I just want one more soul!”

He would make phone calls, introduce himself, ask them if they died today, would you go to heave?

He would mail them a tract & invite them to church.
*He had a first time visitor every week the last 2 mo,
even for 6 weeks in a row after his death.*

Are you satisfied?

Are you ready to meet the Lord.

Are you satisfied with your tally of fruit?

Are you FINE?

Are you old yet?

Don't know what goals to set? – Ask me

Don't know how – Let me help you!

I have decided to be Contented with what God is
Doing in my life,

But I decided to remain Discontented with what I am
doing FOR God in this life.

How about you?