

1 Timothy 6:1-10;17-19

6-12-05

“Contentment!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. Children’s Musical Tonight – “Unity of the Body of Christ”
- 1.2. Doke’s say goodbye.

2. CONTENTMENT! (1-12)

- 2.1. **CONTENTMENT & WORK!** (1,2)
- 2.2. **Slavery** – 60 million slaves! (1/2 the population of the empire)
 - 2.2.1. It was **economic** rather than racially motivated. [They became slaves by war or poverty]
 - 2.2.2. It was an **effective system** for Rome. [how else would Rome have achieved such economic, political, & military might?]
 - 2.2.3. It was also a **corrupt system**. [humans were mere property to be used or abused]
 - 2.2.4. **Q: If a slave became a Christian how should they act?**
 - 2.2.4.1. Should they stop serving their master? Not submit? Strike back? Take up arms against the empire?
 - 2.2.4.2. The answer was not in rebellion but in submission!
- 2.3. Paul didn’t emphasize individual **rights** but individual **responsibilities**.
 - 2.3.1. **His chief concern?**...the glory of God!
 - 2.3.2. Paul saw a different status for master & slave, but demanded a change from **both!**
 - 2.3.3. **Though we no longer have slavery, we all have to deal w/authority!**
 - 2.3.3.1. {a} Submitting to authority is difficult. Rebellion is so much more fun & adventurous. *We are a country born out of revolution, independent thinking & living.*
 - 2.3.3.2. {b} It is difficult working for someone you don’t respect.
 - 2.3.3.3. {c} There is a time to resist authority. *If being asked to deny God’s moral standards.*
- 2.4. Vs.1 deals with **Non-Christians** in authority over us; & vs. 2 deals with **Christians** in authority over us.
 - 2.4.1. (1) Treat them w/respect; work hard for them; do your assignment well; be honest.
 - 2.4.1.1. Paul says a slave’s **attitude & quality** of his or her work will preserve a good reputation for Christianity.
 - 2.4.2. **Q: Do you work for an unbeliever?** Some are people of integrity; others are bad-tempered or play favorites. Some give Christians a hard time.
 - 2.4.2.1. Paul says regardless of their attitude honor them by doing your best job!

- 2.4.3. **Christian employees:** Work is not a venue for *in your face evangelism*(though talk about your faith a appropriate times). Being the best employee will probably give the most opportunities to share the gospel than if you slough off.
- 2.4.3.1. **Keep your spiritual fire stoked, so it will continue to burn evening the coldest work environment!**¹
- 2.4.4. (2) **Q: What if your boss is a Christian?** Don't disrespect them. Serve them all the more(because we are of the same family).
- 2.4.4.1. Don't think that your boss should treat you differently because you are a Christian.
- 2.4.4.2. **Bosses – Model the behavior you expect from them. And, don't promote a lazy Christian in your company just because they are a Christian.** [What will the other harder working employees think?]
- 2.5. **Teach & exhort these things** - This reminds us that we're under God's authority.
- 2.5.1. **Personal integrity must accompany doctrinal integrity.**
- 2.5.2. You can spend hours analyzing 1 Cor.13 on love, & yet still not "*love one another*"!
- 2.5.2.1. If we truly submit to God's Word, it will show up in the way we **live & work!**
- 2.5.3. **Q: In what sphere of life do you have the most difficulty w/someone in authority over you?** (work, church, home, school, civil authorities)
- 2.5.4. **Q: What will be your remedy? Will you change your attitude, or work habits? Will you talk to your superior? Share your concerns? Speak the truth...in love?**²
- 2.6. **CONTENTMENT & GODLINESS! (3-6)**
- 2.7. (3-5) These have an inflated opinion of themselves.
- 2.7.1. **Read J.B.Phillips vs.4,5.**
- 2.7.2. **Q: Ever meet this person?** (They don't want to discuss **truth** or **godly living**, but instead just **cause division**)
- 2.8. **Gain** – note *gain* in both vs.5 & 6.
- 2.8.1. So isn't there any rewards in godliness?
- 2.8.2. **Genuine Christian faith brings great gain when coupled w/contentment.**
- 2.9. **Contentment** = Let's start with what it is not.
- 2.9.1. **It is not** Laziness or selfishness. **It is not** complacency.

¹ Chuck Swindoll; pg.128.

² Chuck Swindoll; pg.129.

- 2.9.2. It is not “Winnie the Pooh in the 100 acre wood, after polishing off a whole jar of honey, & then plops himself down against a tree for a sticky, satisfying nap.” (Swindoll)
- 2.9.3. *It is an attitude of mind, independent of externals, & dependent only on God.*³
- 2.9.3.1. Godliness w/contentment is independent of one’s bankbook & possessions.⁴
- 2.9.3.2. It is recognizing the sufficiency of what we have.
- 2.9.4. Phil.4:11-13 “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be **content**: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
- 2.9.5. **Our goal then?...** Have a genuine relationship w/Jesus(Who is our only source of real contentment) & have a healthy detachment from material things.
- 2.9.5.1. Ps.23:1 “The Lord is my shepherd I shall not be in want(lack)”
- 2.9.6. **If a person is content** you won’t hear them always saying, “Someday I will _____” (have a new house, or be a such & such, etc.)
- 2.9.7. **If a person is content** they won’t be eaten up w/envy over someone else’s achievements or ministry’s growth.
- 2.9.8. **If a person is content** they are truly grateful for what they have. {a thankless person makes a poor Christian!}
- 2.9.9. **Contentment** – On one occasion **Diogenes** the philosopher, while sunning himself, is said to have had an interview with Alexander the Great, who opened the conversation with “I am Alexander the Great.” The philosopher answered, “And I am Diogenes the Cynic.” Alexander then asked him in what way he could serve him. “You can step out of my sunlight,” the philosopher replied.
- 2.9.9.1. Alexander is said to have been so struck with the Cynic’s self-possession that he went away remarking, “If I were not Alexander, I should wish to be Diogenes.”
- 2.10. **CONTENTMENT & POSSESSIONS!** (7,8)
- 2.11. **If our contentment lies in wealth or any other earthly possession, we’re in for a big disappointment.**
- 2.11.1. **Why?** Because we came into this world **carrying** nothing, **wearing** nothing, & **owning** nothing. So Job said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return.” Job 1:21

³ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.36

⁴ Barton, Veerman, & Wilson; pg.122.

- 2.11.2. The sons of **Korah** said, “For when he dies he shall carry nothing away”. Ps.49:17
- 2.11.3. **Solomon** added, “As he came from his mother’s womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand.” Eccl.5:15
- 2.11.4. **You’ve heard them all:** “Ever see a hearse w/a trailer hitch?” “Ever see a shroud with pockets?” “Souls can’t tote luggage” “Or the one about the guy who **was able** to smuggle in some **gold** & when the angels saw it they asked why he brought Asphalt with him?”
- 2.12. (8) **Mt.6:19-34**
- 2.13. **CONTENTMENT & RICHES!** (9,10)
- 2.14. Hear the **warnings** here, because there are no warning signs along the path to riches! (Philip Towner)
- 2.14.1. Prov.15:27 “**He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house**”.
- 2.14.1.1. Happiness is not based on **money** and the greatest proof of that is **our family!** -- Christina Onassis
- 2.14.2. **See Eccl.5:10-12.**
- 2.15. (10) Money itself is not the problem; our attitude toward it is.
- 2.15.1. Money is amoral, neither good nor bad.
- 2.15.2. It’s not what we have but what has us!
- 2.16. **CONTENTMENT & CHARACTER!** (17-19)
- 2.17. **So what if you are already rich? How do you view your wealth?**
- 2.18. A rich person might be tempted to be **arrogant** toward the poor, or to make wealth the **hope** of one’s life.⁵
- 2.18.1. See your possessions as **belonging** to God & **given** by Him for His Glory & our enjoyment.
- 2.19. **Enjoy?** – Tell me what you think of this Yacht? **Show Octopus**
- 2.19.1. “Octopus” the world’s Largest Yacht. It stretches 414’.
It cost over \$200 million. Permanent crew of 60. It takes 10% or \$20 million a year to operate.
- 2.19.2. It has 2 heliports; 7 tenders/smaller boats aboard(1 is 63’); 10 man submarine; a remote control vehicle for crawling the ocean floor.
- 2.19.3. Owned by **Paul Allen** the Internet Entrepreneur. He is worth \$20 Billion. 3rd richest man in America(7th in the world).
- 2.19.3.1. **What’s your reaction to that? I say, “enjoy it Paul!”**

⁵ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.40

- 2.19.4. God wants you to enjoy His gifts!
- 2.19.5. And use these gifts for the good of others.
- 2.19.6. Display His character in how you handle money!
- 2.20. **Ready to give, willing to share – Same thing?...nope.**
 - 2.20.1. The 1st demands a liberal sharing of their wealth.
 - 2.20.2. The 2nd says this act must spring up from internal generosity.
 - 2.20.3. **Here's a heart test on how you are doing with finances?**
Q: What's your 1st thought when a windfall blows your way?
"What can I get, or What can I give?"
 - 2.20.3.1. There's more contentment in **helping** than in **hoarding**;
In releasing, than in keeping!
 - 2.20.4. **"It is more blessed to give than to receive"** said Jesus...& He ought to know!!! Acts 20:35
- 2.21. **Their 2-fold outcome:**
 - 2.21.1. [1] The giver lays up eternal treasure for the **coming age**.
 - 2.21.2. [2] The giver lays hold of eternal life **here & now**.
 - 2.21.3. **Contentment isn't found in a place; its' in a person! Be rich in Christ!**
- 2.22. (17) – **trust in the living God** - Since all-night talker Larry King had heart surgery, he has received letters and gifts. No letter has affected him as much as one he received **Monday**. With a Bible was the following message, dated December 31: "Dear Larry, I'm so glad to hear that everything went well with your surgery. I want you to know that God was watching over you every minute, and even though I know you question that, I also know that one day it will be revealed to you. My prayer is that you remain open and God will touch your life as He has mine. Once I was a disbeliever. When I could not fill my life with basketball, I would simply substitute sex, liquid drugs, or material things to feed my internal shell-like appearance. I was never satisfied. I have finally realized after 40 years that Jesus Christ is in me. He will reveal His truth to you, Larry, because **He lives.**" It was signed by Pete Maravich. **Tuesday**, Maravich, former college basketball and NBA luminary, died. -- The Toledo Blade