

November 2, 2025
Philippians 4:10-14
“Contentment, A Learned Virtue”

Principles And Practical Application

During all of the trying times of his life Paul had learned a valuable lesson; the lesson of contentment. Though his circumstances changed constantly outwardly, his inner contentment was generally on an even keel, see **II Corinthians 1:8-9**. We all get overwhelmed once in awhile. The word “contentment” means “self-sufficient.” The Stoics used it in a sense of human self-reliance while Paul used it to refer to a “divinely” bestowed sufficiency, whatever the circumstances. Paul TRUSTED the Lord’s sovereignty over his very life.

Circumstances. Circumstances we cannot change must be accepted as the will of God for our lives. To fret or be discontented is useless and destructive. Rely on the Lord’s goodness to do what is best.

Dependency. Paul depended on the Lord for the day to day. One seeking to control his/her life will be frustrated. Anyone who trusts in God’s providence over their lives will be content. A learned behavior.

Contentment, a highly prized but elusive virtue. It comes by having a godly relationship with one’s Maker and trusting Him through all seasons of life. No one is ever completely free of problems in this life. So, it must be understood that through salvation and sound biblical knowledge a person can be content with their lives. Paul makes a statement that is very telling, he had to “learn” contentment. This same contentment is available to believers today.

Providence, Paul was contented by God’s providence over his life. Therefore he could be satisfied come what may. Example, if you find yourself homeless due to following God’s path and plan for your life, you can be content. However, if you are hungry, destitute, homeless, and needy because you refuse to work because you do not like the work God brings your way, contentment may be hard to come by for you and your spouse. Just saying. A content person is a confident person in the providence of God.

Application:

Paul had learned the secret of being content whether in the house on the hill or in the shanty in the low grounds. This contentment comes only from God and it enables the believer to be satisfied and have their mind at ease no matter what. God is in control. In **II Corinthians 4:17** Paul wrote, “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.” There is no quick fix or shortcut to contentment. It comes by God’s divine power, not by self-help or counselors with a bottle of mind numbing drugs. Strive to live out a godly life grounded in a biblically based theological world-view. The secret to contentment is absolute confidence and TRUST in the sovereignty of God over one’s life.

