



Big Idea

Consistent contentment is a critical component of Christian character.

1.) Consistent contentment *Give Thanks* to God (v. 10).

- v. 10 – On account of the renewed generosity of the Philippian church, Paul rejoices in the Lord.
- **The best way to thank others is to rejoice in the Lord on their account.**
 - If our goal in life is to bring glory to God, then we will want others to praise God, not us.
- **The best way to bless others is to help them rejoice in the Lord.**
 - The more our lives result in other people praising God, the better we are living as witnesses of Christ.

2.) Consistent contentment *Glorifies* God (v. 11).

- v. 11 – *"I have learned to be content..."*
- **Consistent contentment was something that Paul had to learn over time (v. 12, 14-19).**
- **Never forget: God is constantly accomplishing His heavenly purposes in us through our *Trials* on earth (Romans 5:3-5)**
- Piper – "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

3.) Consistent contentment *Goes Beyond* our circumstances (v. 11-12).

- v. 11-12 – *"...whatever the circumstances . . . I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation."*
- **God is dishonored in us whenever we are discontented in Him.**
 - Discontentment in us tells the watching world that God is really not very satisfying.

- **As those united to Christ, our *Joy* ought to be consistent even when our circumstances are not** (Hebrews 13:8).
 - A sure sign of immature faith is living on an emotional roller coaster.
- A sure sign of spiritual maturity is a joy that increasingly transcends this

4.) Consistent contentment *Glories* in Christ (v. 12-13).

- v. 12-13 - *"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation . . . I can do everything through him who gives me strength."*
 - As the context makes clear, this verse says a lot more about endurance than impossible odds.
 - Other good translations could be: *"I can endure all things," "I can be strong in all things."*
- **Consistent contentment is a life that *Delights* in Christ** (Psalm 37:4).
 - To carry around an attitude of discontentment is exhibit a heart that lacks what it most desires (James 4:1-3).
 - This cannot be true of anyone connected eternally to Christ.
 - If our chief desire is Christ, the nothing can separate us from what we want most (Romans 8:35-39).
 - If our lives are all about Christ, then we never lack what we most need (Philippians 1:21, Psalm 63:1-5)
- **Blessed with all that we want and need most, we have no *Excuse* for discontentment** (1 Corinthians 15:55-57, Psalm 103:2-5).