**THE KEY TO A SATISFIED LIFE**

**The Pursuit of Happyness - Part 7**

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**PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13**

*"... I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation..."* **PHILIPPIANS 4:11-12 – Memory Verse**

 **WHAT IS CONTENTMENT?**

 It's not apathy ... laziness ... complacency

 **DEF: Happiness Independent of Your Circumstances**

 How do I get it? **You Learn It**

**HOW TO EXPERIENCE REAL CONTENTMENT**

**I. LEARN TO Avoid Comparisons**

 *"... I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."* vs. 11b

 *"We do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven ... The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever."*  2 Cor. 4:18

Misconceptions about happiness:

**I Must Have What Others Have**

**I Must Be Liked By Everyone**

**I Must Have More**

*"Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."*

I Timothy 6:6-8

 Root Problem: **Comparing Myself To Others**

**II. LEARN TO Adjust To Change**

 *"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."* vs. 12

 *"I have learned to be independent of circumstances."* (Ber)

Types of Circumstances

 - Those we can control and **Do**

 - Those we can control and **Don’t**

 - Those we **Cannot Control**

*"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."* Romans 12:18

 Key to adjusting: **Have A Sense Of Humor**

**III. LEARN TO Draw On Christ’s Power**

 *"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."*

 *"There is nothing I cannot master with the help of one who gives me strength."* (JB)

 *"... I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me, that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency."*  (Amp)

 *"But God said to me, `My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in (your) weakness."* 2 Cor. 12:9

**IV. LEARN TO Trust God To Meet My Needs**

 *"And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."* vs. 19

 *"So do not start worrying: Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes? ... Your heavenly Father knows you need all these things. Instead, be concerned about everything else with God's kingdom ... and he will provide you will all these other things."* Matt. 6:31-33 (GN)