

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Study..... 9:00 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Training Class5:00 P.M.
 Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 March 29, 2020

Learning to be Content

by Bryan Gibson

The following is Paul’s “thank you note” to the church at Philippi, written while imprisoned in Rome. Read it carefully, because it contains some very important lessons.

(10) “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. (11) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: (12) 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. (13) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (14) Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. (15) Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. (16) For even in

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Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. (17) Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. (18) Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. (19) And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (20) Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen” (Philippians 4:10-20).

Zero in on verses 11-12 for just a minute, especially the latter part of v. 11: “...for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.” Let’s use this passage and a few others to discover his keys to contentment.

He was thankful—for their care (v. 10), for sharing in his distress (v. 14), for the aid they sent him on previous occasions (vv. 15-16), for doing something



“well-pleasing to God” (vv. 17-18), for the fact that his and their needs were supplied by God (v. 19). This is the one of the big keys to contentment, because it’s hard to be thankful and discontented at the same time. “Count your many blessings, name them one by one”—it won’t make our hardships disappear, but it will make them seem a lot less significant.

He did what he had earlier admonished these brethren to do—**he looked out “for the interests of others”** (Philippians 2:3-4). He was too concerned about their welfare to spend much time thinking about his own (Philippians 1:27-28; 2:19-24; 2:25-28). Yes, he was thankful for the gift they sent him, but he was more thankful for the spirituality they had demonstrated in sending the gift (vv. 17-18). We can learn to be content, too, but we’ll first have to learn to quit thinking about ourselves all the time. Get busy looking out for others, and we’ll soon forget our own woes.

Material things were not his top priority, so much so that he didn’t even like to “speak in regard to need” (v. 11). Look at v. 17 again: “Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.” It’s much easier to be content when the “one thing” that matters most is laying hold of eternal life (Philippians 3:12-14).

In regard to material things, **he focused more on necessities than luxuries**—“you sent aid once and again for my necessities” (v. 16); “God shall supply all your need” (v. 19). There’s nothing wrong with abounding, or being full (v. 18), but there is something wrong when this is expected, when having an abundance is taken for granted. Don’t forget what Jesus taught us to pray—“give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). Do that and it will actually increase our gratitude—especially when God chooses to bless us beyond what He has promised.

He trusted in God’s provisions—both spiritual and material. After talking about how he had learned contentment, he quickly deflected the credit—“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (v. 13). God provided for Paul’s needs, and will do the same for all His children. “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (v. 19).