

## True Marks of Contentment

### I. John Bunyan's Key to Contentment

### II. Biblical Definition of Contentment

*"True Contentment is finding inner \_\_\_\_\_ in God alone and in His provisions for us.*

*It means having a \_\_\_\_\_ mind in any situation and experiencing God's peace and confidence in \_\_\_\_\_ times. Contentment is also consciously enjoying the fact that God is \_\_\_\_\_, even when your circumstances are not."* Robert Jones

*"Contentment means that I'm not a \_\_\_\_\_ of my circumstances. I am comfortable, \_\_\_\_\_, at peace and \_\_\_\_\_ in an unalterable and eternal relationship with the living Christ that rises infinitely above the mundane \_\_\_\_\_." John MacArthur*

### III. God's Promise Of Contentment (Philippians 4:11-13)

#### True Contentment is Not Controlled By Your Circumstances (Phil 4:11-12)

#### A. Paul's Circumstances

- a. Financial Hardships (2 Cor. 11:27; Rom 8:28-39)
- b. Physical Hardships (2 Cor. 11:24-28; 2 Cor. 12:10)
- c. Status Hardships (1 Cor. 7:6-9; 2 Tim 1:15; 2 Tim 4:1)

#### B. True Contentment Can Be Learned (Phil 4:11)

*Greek Definition for "learn" means to learn something experientially, to appropriate the truth personally, and to live it out practically.*

C. True Contentment is found in Christ Alone(Phil. 4:13)

*Biblical Definition:*

*“True contentment is a joyful, humble, uninterrupted, and independent of circumstance dependence upon Christ. It is an attitude which cannot be controlled by material comfort or poverty. It is a ready acceptance of whatever God may allow or cause in our life.”*

#### **IV. Battling Discontentment with God**

A. Do Not Complain (James 1:17, Phil 2:14-15)

B. Do Not Fret (Psalm 37)

C. Do not Be Anxious (2 Cor. 5:10, Phil 4:8)

D. Do Not Be Distracted (Luke 10:38-42/Luke 12:31)

E. Do Not Despair (Psalm 42,43, 61)

F. Do Not Make Hasty Decisions (Proverbs 3)

#### **V. Reflection Questions - Are You Truly Content?**

1. Looking at the world today, give an example of how the world beckons us to be discontent with our life.
2. Share an example of when you find it most difficult to have contentment in your life?
3. How can the principles of Paul's Testimony in Phil 4:11-13 apply to your life?
4. Can you think of other Bible verses that you can cling to, memorize, meditate upon, and apply to help you battle your discontentment?