

CONTENTED LIVING

Intro. With apologies to Peale's confident living. We have plenty of that but little contentment. Society is materialistic and pragmatic. Want things b/c judge that things will be useful in bringing satisfaction. Discontented when don't have. Spirit creeps into church esp in Calif. Bible never condemns things or money. Love of money and abuse of world. Right attitude is impt thing. In P's day some combined desire to have with real profession of rel service. Getting gain from prof rel activities. This brings P to an impt pronoun-ment.

- I. The Principle of Contented Living, 6:6.
- A. What it means. Contentment means self-sufficient in a good sense. In papyri used with neg to mean independent. It is dependence on resources within self, contentment. If independent of self-resource then dependent on circ, friends, moods, feelings. If have resources within self then contented in varying moods, circ. But this needs a basis.
- B. Its basis. Godliness. Described in 11-12. Rtness, faithfulness, love, pat, meek, fellow and fight for these things. Don't come easy, but nec foundation for contentment.
- C. Its result. Great gain. Unusual word for (perism-not usual kerdos, advantageous). Means satisfying or providing basics for self. Something that really provides for basic needs. Only in vv 5-6. Basic meaning of providing necessities. Don't really n surface joy, circ with you, but do need to provide the gain of god plus contentment. (word in 8 fo content is satisfied).

II. The Pattern of Contented Living, Phil 4:11.

- A. Background of P. Middle class family. Had good & Bright promise for future. Equally bright in ch. Chose self-denial.
- B. Experience of P. Had plenty (when at Jerus and paid for 4 men, Acts 21:23). Had nothing.
- C. Testimony. Learned not to depend on these things but on inner resources of knowing in will of God e.g. McK in Mexico and cereal. Shouldn't you try to better your lot. Yes, if learned the lesson God has in present circ.

III. The Prescription for Contented Living. 2 Cor 9:8.

Let God make grace abound. Means charm, favor, spiritual and here material blessings. Prescriptn is let God give you what's best. Phil 4:19--show us our needs.

IV. The Purpose of Contented Living, 2 Cor 9:8.

So that we can abound unto every good work. In context this means good work of giving to others. When you have self-contentment then you will turn your thots to others. If not contented you will keep looking at self and trying to satisfy self.

Concl. This is not a martyr kind of attitude. These 3 uses of the word for contentment teach us the necessity for a basic attitude of resignation to will of God. But lest that become 20th c. martyrdom I add a 4th vs which uses word for sufficient. Heb 13:5. In light of the personal and permanent presence of living X, who can say he doesn't have sufficient. And realization of the contentment of being godly in will of God is great gain.

What are your goals. How well are you meeting them.

Principle - is you believe it?

Pattern See

Procedure will you try it