

P.M. OUTLINE
8/21/2016

"CONTENT / CONTENTMENT"

"Content" - (W.E. Vine) "satisfaction with what one has" (Webster Dictionary) "not a distraction in desiring something more or different" (Merriam-Webster Thesaurus) "feeling that one's needs or desires have been met. Opposite: disheartened, malcontent, unhappy."
(Commentary) "a cordial acquiescence in the arrangement of heaven; detachment from anxious concern about outward features of this life"

1. "CONTENT / CONTENTMENT" FOUND 4 TIMES IN N.T.

- 1) **(Luke 3:14)** "and be content with your wages"
The soldiers were to show repentance by not intimidating or falsely accusing another.
- 2) **(Phil. 4:11-13)** "to be content ... everywhere and in all things ..."
- 3) **(1 Timothy 6:6-8)** "Now godliness with contentment is great gain ... with these we shall be content."
Someone said, "The poorest man in the world is the man who has more than he needs but feels like it isn't enough."
- 4) **(Hebrews 13:5-6)** "be content with such things as you have"
Try to avoid a misplaced emphasis on the material things.

2. STUMBLING-BLOCKS TO "CONTENTMENT"

- 1) **(Heb. 13:5)** "Let your conduct be without covetousness ..."
- 2) **(Matthew 6:25-34)** (v30) "... O you of little faith ..."
- 3) **Envy** - discontent at the excellence or good fortune of another.
(1 Sam. 18:8-9; Gen. 26:14; Esther 5:13; Luke 15:25-30)
- 4) **Complaining / an "I can't be satisfied" attitude**
Old expression: "I can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."

3. HOW DO I DEVELOP "CONTENTMENT"?

- 1) **Work at it** - (Phil. 4:11) "I have learned ..."
- 2) **Count your blessings** - (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- 3) **(Colossians 3:2-3)** "Set your mind on things above ..."
(Luke 12:15 and v21; Ecclesiastes 5:10)
- 4) **Think how bad it could be.**

CLOSE - (Psalm 37:16) "A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of many wicked"
(Proverbs 15:16) "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred"