

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

August 21, 2012

Issue No. 56 Mark Aites, Editor

Contentment

"A contented mind is the greatest blessing a man can enjoy in this world." – Joseph Addison

"But if I'm content with a little, enough is as good as a feast." – Isaac Bickerstaffe, *Love In A Village*, Act III, Sc. i

"To be content with what we possess is the greatest and most secure of riches." – Cicero

"...he who wants little always has enough." – Zimmermann

"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Phil. 4:11). Many of us have heard that verse quoted over and over, but I wonder how many of us have keyed in on the word "learned?" Contentment is a *learned* behavior. It is something which we must strive to attain.

Even children struggle with contentment. You get two or more playing together and there is but one toy. Each child desperately wants that toy and sometimes through pushing and shoving, and finally taking it, do they feel content. But even that does not last long, as the others continue to pursue the toy.

This is a world that craves possessions. People firmly believe that the more they have the happier they will be. They are not aware of what our Savior said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

The need for contentment goes beyond possessions. It may even be our health. Was it not the apostle Paul who said, "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Cor. 12:7-9).

Whether it is our job or lack of job, problems with friends, family or others, our health – we need to *learn* to be content. Remember that our Lord promised in Matt. 6 that He would provide food, shelter, and clothing. And was it not Paul who said, "And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content" (1 Tim. 6:8). Do we not frequently sing, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru?" (Hymn: *This World Is Not My Home*)

"He who is content in his poverty, is wonderfully rich." - Anonymous