

At this point we begin to sacrifice as we submit our will to His. Our lives will change as we serve Him and not ourselves. Has your life changed since receiving the word? If not, you must acknowledge you have not received the word, you are not a doer rather than a hearer and you have not been added to the church as saved. Something to reflect on.

Jim Stauffer

To have God in our life, doesn't mean sailing on a boat with no storms, it means having a boat that no storm can sink!



NOVEMBER 14, 2010

ELUSIVE CONTENTMENT
Jim Stauffer

In his letter to Timothy, Paul strikes at the center of real happiness when he warns Timothy to teach the brethren to understand and seek contentment.

In chapter 6 he starts his explanation by using the relationship of servants to masters. It is important, he says, to count them worthy of honor that the name of God be not blasphemed. Even more so does he charge that those who serve believing masters do so honorably because the ones they serve are believing and beloved.

For us today, the idea of being content as a servant does not always satisfy our plans for life. While Paul's instruction does not mean we cannot and should not strive for success and advancement in the workplace, it does tell us that should not be the source of our contentment. Indeed in his letter to the Philippians he acknowledges his joy at receiving financial support from those brethren. Yet he claims at the same time to have contentment whether the money comes or not. (Phil. 4:10,11)

In Luke chapter 12 we have the story of the rich man who rather than use his wealth to help others, chose to hoard it for his own selfish security. This story is told for the benefit of a greedy young man who was covetous over the family inheritance. Jesus goes to the heart of the problem when He says, "a man's life consisteth not of the abundance of the things he possesseth."

It is very difficult for young people to learn that true happiness and contentment are not found in material surplus. They are found when one can have peace and contentment within himself regardless of circumstances around him. Paul says once we achieve this it remains whether we have all we want of this world's goods or not.

Lenexa church of Christ
7845 Cottonwood
Lenexa KS 66216
913-631-6519

Evangelist:
Jim Stauffer

MEETING TIMES
Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

Send a Copy to a Friend

Lenexa church of Christ

I recently read an article in a magazine about the life of a very successful man. He started as a young man from a family of single parentage and not great material advantage. His goal was success and he understood that to mean succeeding financially. He began by seeking an education as a foundation to build his success on. In order to finance his education he began to make things with his hands that people would buy and put in their homes as ornamental items. His small operation began to burgeon and soon he was doing so well he dropped out of school realizing he would not gain financially by further education. What he realized was he had found the key to success and just needed to spend more time working on his products and marketing.

As his wealth grew he traveled to Latin America on several occasions. He began to notice something about the natives there. Though they lived in poverty they always seemed to be happy. Having just enough clothes to cover them, shelter over their heads and food to sustain them seemed to be all they needed. He began to find ways he could use his money to provide a tool here or a small building there that would enable them to practice their craft and provide for their families. This was their only desire and he became envious of the simple satisfaction they found in life.

He made a decision. He would sell his assets worth millions and would use the money to help people like these who simply wanted enough to sustain them. He found a place to live and kept enough back to sustain a simple life for himself of \$1300.00 per month. The rest would go to worthy projects for people who were content with the necessities of life and were not interested in lavish and luxurious living. He did this because he recognized CONTENTMENT was what really made him happy. His money was not giving him contentment when he doted on himself but it did when he shared it with others who truly needed it.

This story leads us to the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. He said He would provide the necessities of life for us if we will seek spiritual matters first. Our life, He says, consists of what our heart produces. If we train our hearts to be selfish and covetous that will be who we are. But, if we train our hearts to trust the Lord for our needs and share our love with others any way we can we will be content and our lives will be "an offering and a sacrifice to God for an odor of a sweet smell." (Eph. 5:3) After all we can proceed confidently on this path for the Hebrew writer says, "Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have; for himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee." (Heb. 13:5)

Thoughts on Christ and His Church

"And as (Saul) journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: and he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying

unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:3-4)

Burton Coffman's commentary contains the following observation on this passage:

"Why persecutest thou me?..." In this appears one of the profoundest doctrines of Christianity, namely, that Christ is still upon earth in the person of his followers who compose his spiritual body; and that whatever is done to Christ's church is done to himself! ... The deductions from the truth in evidence here are far-reaching and comprehensive:

What is done to the church is done to Christ.

Hatred of the church is hatred of Christ.

Persecution of the church is persecution of Christ.

Membership in the church is membership "in Christ."

Liberality toward the church is liberality toward Christ.

Neglect of the church is the neglect of Christ.

Refusal to belong to the church is a refusal to belong to Christ.

(Coffman, Acts, p. 180)

Think about this analysis of the passage mentioned. It means clearly that all the comments we hear from the world about rejecting the church but accepting Christ is bogus. It simply cannot be done. Jesus died to establish the church and when people reject the church, they reject Him. Remember Acts 9:3,4 the next time someone uses that argument in your presence. Editor's comments

PERSONAL REFLECTION

How often do you reflect on your life? Great people in history have made enormous sacrifices to accomplish their goals. What sacrifices have you made in your life and what was the object or result of that sacrifice?

Did you do without in your younger days to save for retirement? That is certainly a noble action. Did you give up on personal success to serve your family in some specific way.?

Jesus purchased the church with His own blood. (Acts 20:28) We are added to that church when we are saved. We are saved when we gladly receive the word. (Acts 2:41-47)

When we receive with meekness the implanted word we will become doers of the word and not hearers only according to James 1:21.22.