



Pointes to Ponder

The Secret to Contentment.

Philippians 4:11–12 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

You'll probably admit that we all struggle with being content. The recent pandemic of COVID-19 has forced us to imagine what it would be like to have less. We've all wondered if many of the pleasant things we are accustomed to in American life might go away. If this happens, will we be content?

Paul's words in Philippians show us that contentment does not come natural to fallen creatures. But covetousness, discontentment, and complaining are just as natural to man as weeds are to the soil. Sins of dissatisfaction naturally sprout out of the soil of our fallen hearts.

But that's not true with contentment. It does not come naturally. Paul reminds us that it is something that must be learned, it is not common knowledge. We might even call it a secret. So, how do we learn this secret? By living through seasons where we have less and also through times when we have an abundance.

And what exactly is the secret that Paul learned through this diversity of circumstances? He learned that through Christ, he had the divine capability to cope with "all things."

God is good. And being good, He allows us to feel need and plenty so that we will learn the secret of depending on Christ. Not everyone will know this mystery, only those who see every situation as a divine appointment which God allows so that we see Him as sufficient for every need. My prayer for you is that you take full advantage of this virus-induced opportunity to Learn, Love & Live Christ.

Pastor Jim