

# 25. Gospel Driven Life

## Finding Contentment

**Bottom Line:** Contentment is found in Christ alone.

**Parallel Passage:** *[18b] Yes, and I will rejoice, [19] for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, [20] as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. [21] For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. [22] If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. [23] I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. [24] But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. [25] Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, [26] so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. (Philippians 1:18-26 ESV)*

**Summary:** As people, we are constantly searching for contentment. We falsely believe that if we can find the right person, achieve the right status, or have the proper amount of money, then we will finally have contentment. The reality, however, is that contentment is elusive, always escaping our grasp.

Paul stated in 1 Timothy 6:6, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." If we break this down, we see that there are two important pieces. One, godliness, and two, contentment. Those two things combined are the source of great gain (great profit). Godliness is found in the gospel alone, but as we study Paul's teaching, we realize that the gospel is also the source of true contentment.

Paul was willing to suffer all things, not because he was some superhuman, but because he rightly understood the gospel. Specifically, he understood who he was without Christ, he understood the grace that had been poured out upon him, he grasped the responsibility and privilege of knowing Christ and sharing the Good News, and these things combined gave him great contentment and joy.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) What is one area of your life where you habitually struggle with contentment - an area where contentment seems beyond your grasp?
- 2) What do you think are the greatest enemies stopping you from moving forward with contentment in this area?
- 3) What, in your opinion, is the root of people's lack of contentment?
- 4) How has the series on 1 Timothy helped you to understand how the gospel provides a response to these struggles?
- 5) What does it look like and mean to find contentment in the gospel alone (both for godliness and for contentment)?
- 6) John Piper wrote, "God is most glorified in you, when you are most satisfied in him." What does that mean?
- 7) Practically speaking, what does this look like Monday through Saturday? How do we put feet on this concept so that it isn't just an ambiguous idea?
- 8) In what area of your life (c.f. question #1) do you need to preach the gospel to yourself? In other words, where is the truth of the gospel not yet penetrating and transforming?