

God's Grace Provides Contentment Resulting in Thanksgiving FOR and IN all Things

Scripture Reading:

- **Philippians 4:10-19**

INTRODUCTION

Giving thanks to God for pleasant provisions, beneficial circumstances, good health and strength is very logical and easy to understand. However, from a human point of view, giving thanks for unpleasant and seemingly harmful and disastrous circumstances is difficult – if not impossible- to understand.

Yet God's Word tells us to give thanks FOR ALL things (Eph 5:20) and IN ALL things (I Thess 5:18) because "...all things are working together for good to the ones living God, who are (the) called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28)

God's provision of contentment enables the NT grace-believer to give thanks for, and in, even the seemingly negative things and experiences in our lives.

“Contentment” Defined and Illustrated

- ◇ **Definition:** to defend or protect our thinking, as to what is truly necessary in our daily lives
- ◇ **Illustrated:**
 - ◇ “Daily bread”
 - ◇ Bread (sustenance) is a basic and vital daily need for nourishment
 - ◇ cf Israel’s provision of manna in the Wilderness for 40 years, in order to finally enter the land promised to Abraham
- ◇ Roman soldiers' actions demonstrating their repentance - Lk 3:11-14

**God's Grace
is the
Foundation
of
Contentment
(II Cor 12: 7-10)**

Vs 9 - Literal translation: "...my grace brings contentment to you..."

II Cor 9:8 - God's grace provides contentment (KJV= "sufficiency") in order to abound unto every good work

Context describes the good work of giving of material resources

Contentment is Learned

(Phil 4:10-13)


- ◆ Paul was (KJV) “instructed”
 - ◆ Literal translation: initiated by exercising /using God’s grace to be content in experiencing abundance and lack

Contentment with Godliness is GREAT Gain (I Tim 6:6-8)

- ◆ Cf Heb 13:5 – contentment with your present material possessions, because of your tremendous Spiritual possessions!
- ◆ “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

CONCLUSION

19th century industrialist, John D. Rockefeller, when asked “How much money does it take to be satisfied (content)”, replied: “Just a little bit more.”



Contentment for the spiritual NT grace-believer is the ability, provided by God’s grace and learned through experience, to realize the reality of true material and spiritual needs, resulting in thankfulness to God FOR all things and IN all things.