

The Secret of Contentment, By Dr. Calvin Ray Evans

Philippians 4:11

INTRODUCTION:

It seems we are living in an age when we've never had more to "live on" and less to "live for."

- I. What did Paul mean by Contentment?
 - A. He did not mean he had learned not to care.
 1. "Suffered loss of all things" (Philippians 3:8)
 2. "Made all things to all men" (I Corinthians 9:22)
 - B. He did not mean he was satisfied with himself.
 1. "O wretched man that I am" (Romans 7:24)
 2. "When I would do good" (Romans 7:21)
 3. "I press toward the mark" (Philippians 3:14)
 - C. He did not mean that he merely resigned himself to a certain fate.
 1. No like the stoic
 2. The ten spies returning from the promised land
- II. How did Paul learn the secret of contentment?
 - A. Cannot be selfish and contented at the same time
 1. Paul's motto: "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21)
 - B. Learned he could be contented without his freedom
 1. Some of his greatest writings came while in prison
 - C. Contented without his health
 1. He had a "thorn in the flesh"
 - D. Contented without the applause of men
 1. "All men forsook me" (II Timothy 4:16)

CONCLUSION:

Paul's only concern was the approval of Christ. He said, "I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

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