

or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength” (NIV). Paul’s relationship with God superseded whatever he did or did not have. His contentment was not based on his circumstances, but on his relationship with Christ.

Paul reminds us that contentment doesn’t happen overnight. It’s something that we learn. As our relationship with God develops over time and through experiences, we learn to trust God more and ourselves less. Paul knew that Christ would give him the strength to persevere in whatever situation he encountered (v.13).

No matter what you’re facing today, through prayer you can receive the strength to be content. —Albert Lee

The world is filled with so much good  
That brings us joy and pleasure,  
But true fulfilment only comes  
When Christ we love and treasure. —Sper

**We find contentment at the same place we find salvation—in Christ.**



# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## NOVEMBER 8, 2015

### Contentment

*In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. —1 Thessalonians 5:18*

A poet once wrote: “As a rule, man’s a fool. When it’s hot, he wants it cool. And when it’s cool, he wants it hot. Always wanting what is not.”

What an insightful observation on human nature! So when we read in Philippians 4:11, “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” we



wonder, *Can this be possible?*

For Paul it was. Philippians 4:12-13 describes Paul’s response to life: “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed



# I Peter: Overcoming Suffering Rejoicing Always

In 1 Peter 1:8-12 there are two crucial resources to help us experience joy, even in the grief of trials:

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_, verses 6-8

(1 John 4:19) "We love Him because He first loved us."

(John 20:29) "... Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

(Philippians 1:26) "that your rejoicing .. may be more abundant in Jesus Christ ..."

(Philippians 1:25) "... your progress and joy of faith,"

(Philippians 3:1) "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. ..."

(Philippians 3:3) "For we ..., rejoice in Christ Jesus, ..."

(Philippians 4:4) "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"

(Philippians 4:10) "...I rejoiced in the Lord greatly ..."

(Hebrews 12:1-4) "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, {2} looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. {3} For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. {4} You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin."



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## 2. Ultimate \_\_\_\_\_, verses 9-12

(Colossians 3:2-3) "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. {3} For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

(Matthew 13:17) "...for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

(Job 38:6-7) "To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, {7} When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"



Solomon

(Isaiah 14:12-15) "...How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! {13} For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; {14} I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' {15} Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit." (Revelation 12:3-4) "And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. {4} His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. ..."

(Revelation 12:7-9) "And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, {8} but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. {9} So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."