

Sermon: The Discipline of Contentment in Christ.
Series: *Disciplines of Grace.*

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:3-19.
Date: January 14, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Are you content? What areas of your life are producing discontentment? Complaining? Greed?
- b) To what degree has consumerism taken hold of your heart? Can you identify any negative effects (evil) of your consumerism/greed (review V.9-10)?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Read 6:15-17. Verses 15-16 give us a glorious description of God. Verse 17 tells us that God gives us everything to enjoy. Why must we see God as glorious and everything as a gift from God if we are ever going to be content? Do you see your things as possessions or as gifts?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Twice in our passage Paul points us to eternal life (V. 12 and V. 17-19 – Storing up treasure). How does knowing that you will live forever and that your earthly treasure won't go with you, help you to find contentment in this life?
- b) Read Philippians 4:11-13. The Stoics made contentment about self-sufficiency, but Paul makes it about Christ-sufficiency. How does being in Christ actually make us content? OR...how does Jesus satisfy our deepest longings and needs?

APPLICATION

- a) Pastor Brady gave 5 things we can do to practice contentment: 1) Fight the good fight of faith (v.12); 2) Pursue Christ; 3) Possess less while enjoying more (seeing things as gifts not possessions) (V.8); 4) Practicing gratitude; 5) Give generously (v. 18).

Which of these stands out to you? What is one specific thing that the Lord is nudging you to do in order to live in Christ's contentment?

PRAYER

- Acknowledge God's gracious gifts in your life.
- Confess ways that you have become consumeristic and greedy.
- Thank Jesus for being the satisfier of your soul.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into deeper contentment in Christ.