

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

April 30

2023

## Contentment

Contentment can be defined as “a state of happiness and satisfaction.” Simply put, when one is content they are in a happy and satisfied state of mind, free from worry, and are at peace.

So, with that thought pressed upon our minds, let’s take a look at what the Bible has to say about contentment. Beginning with, the Bible says...

### Paul Learned To Be Content.

The apostle Paul wrote, “*Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content*” (Philippians 4:11). My friend, contentment is a learned disposition, and the apostle Paul had learned to have a happy and satisfied state of mind no matter what state he found himself in, giving us an example to likewise follow. Now, some may ask, how is that possible? Well, Paul goes on to tell us how, when he says, “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:13). Remember that my beloved brethren, and may we all likewise be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10) and learn to be content in whatever state we are in.

### Godliness With Contentment Is Great Gain.

The Bible also teaches us that godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6). When defined, godliness is “piety” towards God, which means reverence or respect. To be simply put, when one is godly they will have a genuine love and respect for God and His will. However, true godliness is accompanied with contentment, and as Paul informed, godliness with contentment is great gain. You see, godliness with contentment promotes happiness, it eliminates murmuring and complaining, and it is of much profit to us (1 Timothy 4:7-8). Therefore, be one who has a respect for God and His will, and accompany it with contentment, knowing that godliness with contentment is great gain.

### We Need To Be Content With Such Things As We Have.

In Hebrews 13:5, the inspired Hebrews writer instructs, “*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.*” You see, my friends, one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses (Luke 12:15). For as Paul reminds us, “*we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out*” (1 Timothy 6:7). Sadly, there are too many today who fail to understand that, and because of that, they are not content with such things they have, but rather they are constantly seeking more and more material possessions. However, may we never take for granted the simple necessities of life (1 Timothy 6:8), and may we all be a people who are not covetousness, but rather a people who are content with such things as we have.

Hopefully, we will all understand the importance of contentment and strive to be a people who are content!

✍️ Brad Phillips

## Christians Should Be Really Good at Forgiving

When we are asked to forgive someone who is sorry for a wrong they have done to us and have repented of that sin, why should we want not only to instantly forgive them, but even take great delight in that forgiveness?

**It is a reflection of Jesus** who prayed “Father, forgive them” amid all of the pain of the cross (Luke 23:33-34).

**It is sharing what we got** “forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

**It is an expression of faith** showing that we practice God’s rebuke, repent, forgive” pattern and plan (Luke 17:3-5) as part of our trust in Him.

**It is part of love’s great ability** such that you “reaffirm your love” (2 Corinthians 2:6-8) for him and deal well with Satan’s devices.

**It looks ahead to the future** as we prepare for worship to “be reconciled, and then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23-24).

**It is part of our forgiveness** “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you” (Matthew 6:14).

**And it makes for celebration** (Luke 15:32) to be “merry and glad” as a sinner “was dead and is alive again, was lost and is found.”

The Lord wants us to understand how it is a blessing for us all at every opportunity when we “Put on tender mercies ... bearing with one another, and forgiving one another” (Colossians 3:12-13).

✍️ *Bob Hines*

## God’s Plan of Salvation

**Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)**

**Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)**

**Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)**

**Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)**

**Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)**

**Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)**

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)*

### Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Evangelist

Brad Phillips ..... (765) 720-2816