

"BE CONTENT"

TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13 & 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-8

INTRO:

How is it many Christians find themselves in financial debt?
Because they fail to heed the warning found in the passages of scriptures that we just read.

- "Be Content!!!".

- It is especially during the Christmas season that we will be tempted by the god of this world, Satan to run-up the limit on our credit cards.

- Then not only face the sometimes depressing weather of winter but also face the depressing credit balances after the first of the new year.

- We must remember as Christians even though our soul and spirit are saved our body, or flesh is not.

- Our soul and spirit maybe content but our flesh is never content.

- The flesh is that little voice screaming in your ears -
- "More", "Get It Now"! "Go For It"!

- There is a price to be paid for not being content!

- The scriptures are full of examples of what happens when you are "not content".

- We will look at just a few today.

I. **SATAN WAS DISCONTENTED WITH HIS POSITION**

- Satan is the father of discontentment- Please turn to Ezekiel 28:11-16.

A. Notice his state:

-v12: "full of wisdom", "perfect beauty"

-v13: he was in the garden of Eden

-he was covered with every precious stone.

-he possesses musical ability - "tabrets (drums) & pipes"

-v14: "anointed cherub", v16: "covering cherub"

-dwelt - "upon the holy mountain of God"

-This tells us that Satan at one time was in the holies of holy in throne room of God.

-v15: "Satan wast perfect in thy ways"

B. COMMENTS:

-What great state Satan was in. What a great position he held.

-You would think Satan would have been content.

-But for Satan, his position he held was not enough.

-We are told Eze. 28:17 that Satan "lifted up his heart"

-Read ISA. 14:14

-Satan was discontented he wanted to be like God, the most High.

C. RESULT:

-The result of being discontented with his position - See ISA. 14:15

-No longer in the holies of holy - he was cast out

-His eventual destiny "Lake of Fire" - See Rev. 20:10

-Ever since Satan's fall, he has been using discontentment to trip up everyone
-saved and unsaved.

-Satan was discontented with his position.

-Christians do the same thing

-They are always complaining about their physical position in life, their job, income etc.

-Instead of Praising God for their Position in Christ. - **Preach It!**

-Christian are you discontented with your position be at work or in the church,

-Learn from Satan the results of not being content with your position.

-You will not be casted into the Lake of Fire or lose your salvation, but you will lose rewards in heaven and fellowship with the Lord.

-Satan started right in on the beginning of mankind with this discontentment stuff as we will see with our second illustration.

II. ADAM & EVE WERE DISCONTENTED WITH THEIR POSSESSION

A. STATE:

- read - Ge. 1:27 - God created man in his own image
- read - Ge. 1:28 - God blessed them, instructed them to have children (replenish the earth), subdue the earth, have dominion over it.
- read - Ge. 1:29 - God gave them food to eat, no work involved.
- read - Ge. 2:8 - no work involved, we are told God planted a garden in Eden.
- read - Ge. 2:16-17 - told they could eat of every tree freely in the garden, except one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

B. COMMENTS:

- 1.-Adam and Eve had perfect environment
 - No rain, just blue skies
 - Didn't wear any clothes, yet didn't get burnt by sun's rays- protected.
 - Plenty to eat, didn't have to work for it.
 - They were created to live forever (eternal life)
 - No death, taxes, diseases, doctors, hospitals
 - They had complete control over their environment & its inhabitants, animals, plant life etc.
 - Because we are told had complete dominion over it.
 - No pesky mosequitoes to contend with.
 - They had only one rule and regulation - **See Ge. 2:17**
 - You think they would be content with their possession.
 - Well, the origin of discontentment shows up in Genesis 3, Mr. Discontentment himself, Satan.
2. - Satan is the greatest salesman whoever lived.
 - In fact all of the profession of "sales" follow his method or approach.
 - That approach is to convince a person that whatever they possess is not good enough and they will not be totally content unless they purchase your product.
 - That is exactly what Satan did with Eve in Genesis 3.
 - Satan convinced Eve that what she possessed (ideal environment, eternal life etc.) was not good enough.

-That she would not be totally content unless she ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, regardless of what God said.

-What does God, know anyway, He is only God after all.

3. Well, we know the rest of story, Eve bought Satan's sales pitch and Adam went along with it.

-What we want to see is the result of Eve not being content with her **Possession.**

C. RESULTS:

1. -Adam & Eve lost spiritual fellowship with God in the garden because of sin.

-Now, they were not only spiritual dead but would now eventually die physically.
physically and spiritually.

-Satan judged -Ge.3:14

-Satan judged Ge. 3:15 - "it shall bruise thy head"

-Woman judged Ge. 3:16

-Man judged Ge. 3:17,19 (Man have to work for living)

-Earth judged, cursed - Ge. 3:17 - "cursed is the ground for thy sake"

-Ge. 3:21 - an innocent victim (animal) bystander is killed because of Adan and Eve's sin.

-In this case , God kills an animal to cover the woickedness and sin of Adam and Eve.

-Ge. 3:23-24 - God expels man from his perfect environment - Garden of Eden.

-And it is all down hill from their. - First murder Ge. 4 - Cain murders his brother Abel.

2. -As a result of Adam and Eve's discontentment with their possession mankind is paying the price.

-I Cor. 14:21 - "For since by man came death...."

-I Cor. 14:22 - "For as in Adam all die,"

-Ro. 5:15 - "through the offense of one many be dead"

-Ro. 5:17 - "...by one man's offense death reigned by one"

-Because of Adam's and Eve's discontentment, man has a sin nature, whose wages is death. Not only physically but more importantly spiritual death.

-Because of Adam & Eve's discontentment all of mankind was destined for hell.

-Because of Adam & Eve's discontentment the Son of God had to come to earth and shed His precious blood and die to pay for the sin of mankind.

-Christian beware of being discontented with your possession.

-Christian you need to Praise God for your possession -

-Eternal life which you can not lose - Amen!

-Interceding Saviour.

-Prepared place in heaven

-An acquired inheritance because you are a child of God you cannot lose, reserved and undefiled waiting for you.

-Next we want to see:

III. THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WERE DISCONTENTED WITH THEIR PROVISIONS

A. STATE:

1. God had delivered them out of the bondage of Egypt.

-He promised them a land flowing with milk and honey.

-God had demonstrated his mighty power outwardly by sending the plagues upon Egypt.

-We see the last plague upon Egypt, the death of the first born among both man and beast.

-However, as the LORD smote all the first born in the land of Egypt, not even sparing the house of Pharaoh.

-The children of Israel were spared because the LORD saw the blood of the Passover Lamb placed on the individual homes of Israelites and he passed over and the plague was not upon them.

-As the children of Israel were leaving Egypt, the Egyptians followed in hot pursuit, intending to kill them.

-The LORD parted the sea and the children walked safely across to the outside.

-While the pursuing Egyptians were destroyed by a watery grave.

2. Still after they had seen the mighty hand of the LORD provide the needed protection, they still were not content.

-We see along the way, they murmured and complained.

- They murmured for food, bread - God gave them manna
- They murmured for flesh to eat - God gave them quail.
- They murmured for water - God gave them water flowing from the rock.
- Instead of being content, they at times would long for the fish, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlick of Egypt.

-Oh!, Christian don't we do the same thing even after has shown us his great provisions, we still long for the fish, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlick of Egypt.

-In other words we still are not content and long for the things of the world.

-Instead of being content with the LORD God to worship, the God who brought them out of Egypt, who provided for them abundantly -

-As soon as Moses leaves to go up on the mountain to receive God's holy law, they are back complaining against Moses, they are discontent.

-They have Aaron fashion them another god made of hands.

C. RESULTS:

1. The generation that came out of Egypt were for the most part were destroyed, never got to see or enter the promise land.

-In fact, they are burning in hell this very day for discontentment.

2. **Christian**, Praise God! we will not burn in hell for our discontentment.

-But we can miss out on the blessing of God for not being content with His provisions.

-You see, Satan wants you to be discontented with the provisions of God, so will serve him and not the Lord.

-Because when you desire the provisions of the world, you have to take your hand off the plow and look back , back at the world and take your eyes off the Lord and his work.

-Remember, the scriptures say "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" not by Satan.

-As we trace the history of the children of Israel, we that they were also not content

IV. THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WERE DISCONTENTED WITH THEIR PROTECTOR - OR LEADER.

A. STATE:

-The LORD God, had raised up judges to protect them and lead them.

B. COMMENTS:

-We see their discontent expressed in I Samuel 8: 4-9

-they wanted to be like everyone else - not content with God or His leadership.

-God wasn't doing a good enough job.

-God allows the children of Israel to have a king.

C. RESULTS:

1. For the most part the kings turned out to be wicked, and lead Israel into idolatry, etc.

-Israel was divided into two kingdoms- under Solomon's son Rehoboam.

-Northern kingdom - 10 tribes-capital Samaria

-Southern - 2 tribes/Ben. & Judah.-capital Jerusalem

-Notice discontentment - brings divisions

-Under the king set-up Israel went into captivity.

-Under the king set-up Israel dispersed four corners of the earth.

-And they won't be finally gathered into the Promise Land until the KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS returns to do it.

-Often it is the same story with Christians they are not content with their protector or leader the Pastor.

-The pastor is in some way a protector because he watches for the souls of his people.

-The people should be praise God for their pastor, and pray for him, not be discontented like the children of Israel were.

-The end result will be disastrous as we saw.

-God may decide to split up church and scatter it to the four winds and leave people to their own devices as he did Israel.

CONCLUSION:

-Today we have seen the devastating results of not being content.

1. Satan was not content with his position - destiny lake of fire.
2. Adam and Eve discontented with their possession - God's Son sacrificed to Save mankind.
3. Children of Israel not content with their provisions - Most of them did not make wilderness and entered into the promise land, burning in hell right now.
4. Children of Israel not content with their protector, the LORD, God and his leaders -
-Israel scattered to four corners of the earth not to be gathered until the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS returns.