



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 7 Number 47

November 24, 2019

BE CONTENT

by Daniel King, Sr.

"And soldiers also asked him saying, And we, what must we do? And he said unto them, Exhort from no man by violence, neither accuse any one wrongfully; and be content with your wages" (Luke 3:14).

In Luke's brief summary of John the Baptist's preaching, he offers several tiny snapshots of circumstances with John's moralizing response. This is one of those. It is pointed at the unique situation of soldiers in the ancient world. They carried the weapons, were trained in fighting techniques, and often had experience with bloodletting. They, therefore, found themselves in a situation suited to abuse. Extortion, false accusation, and demands for outlandish wage increases through strong-arm tactics were recurrent problems in the relations between the public and their "protectors." John advised these men, however, not to abuse their power, but to act in the interest of justice in spite of their position.

All three of the exhortations of the wilderness prophet are important, but it is our intent to explore the third one in particular: "And be content with your wages..." Although, admittedly, these men were in a position different from ours, in that they could "muscle" themselves into a salary increase, still none of us is immune from the temptation to which John alludes. Albeit, contentment is needed in more areas than just this one:

1. Be content with such things as you have. Because the Lord is going to take care of us, we do not need to worry over what the future may bring to us financially. We can be confident that His providence will furnish our needs:

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, not forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

Like those soldiers to whom John addressed his admonition, we need to develop a mindset of contentment, but our most thorny problem is lack of faith (Matthew 6:30). Paul said that the greatest gain in life is not a financial one, but a spiritual one: "But godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6).

2. Be content with your station in life. This is not to say that we ought not to try to improve upon our general situation, only that we need to develop a mentality which breeds happiness in every situation. Paul penned the following words from Roman imprisonment.

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

Many folks spend their days in sheer misery because they cannot get the job they want or break into the career area they have their heart set upon, improve their standing in the community, or be accepted by the right crowd, etc. God might grant unto us more of the good things of life if we could only learn to appreciate and be content with what we now have!

3. Be content to offer the Lord simple service. All of us who love God would yearn for the chance to accomplish some great thing in His service. Most of us will never be handed the staff of Moses, the sling of David or the wisdom of Solomon. Instead, we will be asked to perform a thousand small and inconspicuous acts of love and service daily. They will never bring us the plaudits of the crowd nor will they be much noticed by those around us. But they are what the Lord requires, humble service:

"Wherewith shall I come before Jehovah, and bow myself before the high God?... Will Jehovah be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil?... He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:6-8).

4. Be content with your chosen partner in life. When two people had taken their vows before God and man, there was a time when, at least in general, that settled the business of "courting" and "dating." Not any more. Many people today, even Christians, continue to "shop around" long after the vows are said. The sacred promise which they made before God as heavenly witness (see Malachi 2:14) means almost nothing to them. Be content with the husband or wife of your youth. Do so for the sake of your conscience, your children, your family, your influence, not to mention the future home of your soul. [Christianity Magazine, May 1994]

Comments by Ross Ward

Contentment is an important Christian virtue. Several great points are made in this article. It seems our culture is driven on the pursuit of the material, of wealth. We often take great care in secular training and pursue careers that will provide us the most financial gain. Though this is not necessarily ungodly, it usually comes down to who or what are we putting first in our lives. Mt 6:24, Jesus states that no man can serve two masters, we cannot be a slave to God and mammon (the material). There will always be this conflict. It is important to question and evaluate: How much do we pursue the physical and sacrifice of the spiritual? The message is that we need to find contentment in Godly pursuits and righteousness. The world does not offer us true contentment.

Solomon looked upon all his wealth and achievements and summarized his view of them all:

Ecc 2:11, "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."

Solomon realized that all his possessions will be left with another:

Ecc 2:18-19, "Yea, I hated all my labor which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.¹⁹ And who knows whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labor wherein I have labored, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity."

Peter had this to say about our earthly endeavors:

2 Pet 3:10-12, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Porters are traveling in GA
- Others traveling for the Holidays
- Brother Erickson's brother Lynn passed away this past week
- Sylvia Ward, Ross's Mom, continues in home rehab
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Worship Assignments for the month of December are posted on the bulletin board
- Monthly Men's meeting scheduled for next Sunday

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Chad Mitchell

Lord's Table – Ben Palmer

– Tom Mitchell

Wednesday

Song Leader – Chad Mitchell

Invitation – Larry Thompson

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM

Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



[www.facebook.com @blackfootchurch](https://www.facebook.com/blackfootchurch)

www.blackfootchurch.com