

1. The Possibility of Contentment

- 2 things can corrode it: BOTH having & not having (v12)
- Not his natural tendency, not stoicism, not complacent
- Paul is in deeply trying circumstances – but says contentment is possible
- Contentment should be like a thermostat not a thermometer

2. The Source of Contentment

- “in Him” – Contentment is rooted in God, not in circumstances
 - a) **Contentment in a Strength-giving Saviour (v13)**
 - “I have strength to do all things through him who gives me strength”
 - We need to look for his strength as much on good days as bad days
 - b) **Contentment in a Generous God (v19)**
 - “... according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”
 - At the cross Christ purchased all we need for all our needs
 - We can face the future because we know God will provide
 - c) **Contentment in a Glorious Father (v20)**
 - “To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever”
 - Not just ‘God’ but ‘Father’ – he cares deeply
 - God’s glory is tied to his providing for his people
 - d) **Contentment in a Sovereign Lord (v22)**
 - “all the saints... especially those who belong to Caesar’s household”
 - Remember who is in charge – He can do what seems impossible
- Jesus changes everything – he brings strength, victory, riches, belonging
- Christians have the greatest prize – we need to live like it

3. The Discipline of Contentment

- “I have learned” v11,12: Every incident is a chance to learn & re-inforce
- The discipline of not looking – coveting/complaining/comparing
- The discipline of looking – always at God, and what he has for us
- The discipline of trusting – “Faith sucks the honey of contentment from the hive of the promise” (Thomas Watson)

4. The Outworking of Contentment

- Genuine Gratitude – Paul is thanking, not hinting. Thankless people look for more, thankful people realise what they have
- Generous Giving – Philippians gave out of poverty (but rich in trust in God). Christians can be generous because they have a God who gives
- The fruit of contentment also feed contentment
- Where does your contentment lie?

Notices

Sun	Evening service at Day Centre	8pm
Tues	No Bible Study this week or next	

getting to know the WIDER CHURCH

Congregation: Dervock
Presbytery: Northern
Location: north of Ballymoney
Pastor: John Hawthorne, married to Carol, 6 grown up children.
Attendance: 75



Prayer points:

- Pray for those who attend services and are not Christians.
- Pray for the elderly, sick and grieving members of the congregation. Pray for the disabled and their carers that God would give them His sustaining grace and a sense of His presence.
- The congregation is building a hall. Give thanks for progress, and pray for safety on the site and for further progress.
- Pray for Nikki Coils who is taking part in a 6 month charity cycle through Africa.

Sunday 27th
Opening Psalm: 108:6-11

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352