

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Source of Contentment

PASSAGE: Psalm 139:1-18

DATE: December 13, 2020

Christian contentment is experiencing joy in God in all circumstances by yielding to His providential and wise plan for my life.

Common Thieves of Contentment

I. Covetousness

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."¹⁴But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?"¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully,¹⁷and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'¹⁸And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.'¹⁹And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'"²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." – Luke 12:13-21

II. Envy

- "Malice that cannot speak its name, cold-blooded but secret hostility, hidden resentment and spite – all cluster at the center of envy. Envy clouds thought, clobbers generosity, precludes any hope of contentment and ends in shriveling the heart. Of the seven deadly sins, only envy is no fun at all."
- "So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander." – 1 Peter 2:1

III. Greed

- "For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord." – Psalm 10:3

IV. Pride

- “For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world.” – 1 John 2:1
- “Today, vast stress is laid on the thought that God is personal, but this truth is so stated as to leave the impression that God is a person of the same sort as we are—weak, inadequate, ineffective, a little pathetic. But this is not the God of the Bible! Like us, he is personal; but unlike us, he is great. In all its constant stress on the reality of God’s personal concern for his people, the Bible never lets us lose sight of his majesty and his unlimited dominion over all his creatures. Our thoughts of God are not great enough. We fail to reckon with the reality of his limitless wisdom and power.” – J. I. Packer

The Source of Contentment: Psalm 139:1-18

I. Divine knowledge (v.1-6)

- “O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.” – Psalm 139:1-6

II. All-encompassing presence: vs. 7-12

- “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.” – Psalm 139:7-12
- “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” – Hebrews 13:5-6

III. Active providence: vs. 13-18

- “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.” – Psalm 139:13-18
- “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” – Romans 8:31-32
- “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.” – Jeremiah 17:5-8
- “God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.” – St. Augustine

Benediction:

There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord! You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. – Psalm 4:6-8

Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the four thieves that were mentioned (covetousness, envy, greed, pride) is most prevalent in your life and in what ways?
2. What are some ways you can avoid falling into the “comparison trap” in your life?
3. How does our view of God impact how we source contentment?
4. Out of the three aspects of God that were highlighted from Psalm 139, which of the three is most meaningful to you right now and why?