



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, FL

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# SKYVIEW BULLETIN

## HOW CONTENT ARE YOU?



We are accustomed to discontentment. We are constantly encouraged to be unhappy with what we have. Television ads focus on products that should replace what we already have because they are so much better. The automobile ads want us to think that the new models offer much more than what we have at the present. From the moment you drive your car onto a dealership's car lot, salesmen have been trained to make you feel that the car you now own is inferior to anything they can offer to sell you.

Discontentment is seen in families. Often husbands and wives who have vowed to love each other for better or for worse become unhappy with one another. Maybe they meet someone they believe would be a better spouse or is better looking or who can offer more

financial security. Discontentment arises and the marriage vow is broken because they are no longer happy with one another.

Discontentment is also seen in congregations. We don't like the preaching, or the singing or the Bible class. We don't like what the congregation is planning. We become unhappy and our lack of contentment makes our worship and service very difficult for us. So, we seek contentment in another congregation. Or, we think we will be more content if we just stop attending all together.

The problem with discontentment is that it is not caused by external circumstances. It is a condition of the heart. Discontentment exists because our thinking is not as it should be. We are not content because our thought process has been influenced by the wrong things. We are not able to be content with what ever our situation or circumstances may be because we have not learned contentment.

The word "contentment" is found several times in the Bible, so it is a biblical subject. One of the best passages on this subject is a statement made by the apostle Paul which indicates he was able to be content in whatever circumstance he found himself. Consider what he said: *"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want"* (Phil 4:11-13). He had experienced having plenty and being in need. He had been well fed and he had been hungry. He enjoyed plenty, but he also knew what it meant to be in want. But, he was content in every circumstance of life. The key to his contentment is found in this phrase: *I have learned the secret of being content in every situation.* He "learned" contentment. He was not content by accident or chance. Contentment did not come to him as a natural thing—he had to learn to be content. We must do the same. Contentment is something we must learn. (back page)

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### ELDERS

*Ron Bastien  
Don Greenlee  
Charles Murray  
David Roberts*

### DEACONS

*Ron Bentz  
Frank Edwards  
Jim Ingram  
George Loyd  
Andy Murray  
Dennis Trask  
Brad VanHaerents*

### PREACHER

*Charles Murray*

### MEN WE SUPPORT

*William Stewart--Kingston, Canada  
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe  
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba*

### WORSHIP TIMES

#### SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.  
Classes.....10:50 A.M.  
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

### WORSHIP PLACE

4050 80th Ave N  
PO Box 3118  
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780

WEB: [skyviewchurch.org](http://skyviewchurch.org)

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How do we learn contentment? I mentioned earlier that contentment is a condition of the heart. It does not come through external things, it is something that is developed within us. Actually the first step in learning contentment is to realize that **contentment does not come from WHAT we have, but rather WHO we are.** Contentment is not having everything we want. Contentment is not based on our position in life or our possessions. In fact, we easily become discontent with what we have. Why do automobile manufactures change the style, design, appearance and features on new cars almost every year? Why are many products redesigned, enlarged or improved? Not always to make them better, but to make us unhappy and discontent with what we own so we will be motivated to buy the new product. On a cemetery this was found on a tombstone: *"She died for want of things. He died trying to give them to her."* Think about this: Paul wrote the Philippiian letter while in prison. Even in this environment, he had learned to be content.



Today we worry, we have ulcers, we are miserable, and we are unhappy because we have not learned contentment.

Today we worry, we have ulcers, we are miserable and we are unhappy because we have not learned contentment. When we are content all of the circumstances that trouble us will all go away.

**Contentment is based on our faith in God.** Jesus taught in His mountain discourse that we are not to worry about tomorrow (Matt. 6:34). In verse 33 He promised that if we seek God first and His kingdom, the physical necessities will be provided for us. But herein lies the problem. We often confuse our "needs" with out "wants." The commercial world helps us do this. They offer everything under the sun that will make us happy. We must have all the offerings of society if we are going to be happy, so we are told. Trust in God that He will take care of us is the key to contentment.

Some of our possessions can actually become curses. We worry about losing our investments. We worry about thieves stealing our possessions. We worry about things wearing out or breaking. When we trust God for our necessities and refuse to focus on our wants, we can be truly content. Someone has said, "Contentment makes poor men rich and discontentment makes rich men poor." This is the principle taught in Hebrews 13:5: *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have."* Notice the rest of the verse which tells us contentment is based on faith in God: *"For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"*

**Contentment is also learned by being thankful for what we have.** We must understand the source of everything we possess. James reminds us, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights"* (James 1:17). The church of the Laodiceans in Revelation 3 forgot the source of their success. They said they were rich, they had become wealthy, and they needed nothing (Rev. 3:17). This led them to a spiritually lukewarm condition which was distasteful to God. We are told to give thanks in everything (1 Thess. 5:18). Paul also warned us that godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6). When we recognize God as the source of everything we possess and give Him the proper thanks for all our blessings, we have learned contentment.

One final thought. **Being content regarding physical things is the result of spiritual contentment.** When we are cleansed and sanctified and justified by the blood of Christ we can be content. When we are redeemed and realize that our past sins have been completely washed away and they will be remembered against us no more we can experience contentment to the greatest degree. To be able to pillow our head at night and enter into a peaceful slumber with the realization that if we do not awaken in the morning we will be enjoying the bliss of eternal life brings the greatest kind of contentment. You can enjoy this wonderful contentment by obeying the gospel of Christ and becoming a Christian. Believe in God and His Son (Heb. 11:6), turn away from sin in repentance (Luke 13:3), confess publicly your faith in Christ (Romans 10:9,10), and put Christ on in baptism (Gal. 3:27). There can be no real contentment apart from God. By uniting ourselves with Christ we can guard against the devils efforts to rob us of contentment. We can realize that contentment is not *having* but *being*. May each of us learn to be content in whatever circumstance of life we may be in. Begin today by turning your life over to God.

Adult

Auditorium

New class

beginning in

January:

*The Life Of Christ*

GOD'S

**PLAN OF SALVATION**

**Believe—Heb. 11:6**

**Repent—Luke 13:3**

**Confess—Rom. 10:9**

**Be Baptized—**

**Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,**

**1 Pet. 3:21**

CEM