

“Five Eternal Perspectives On Earthly Living”

Session V

Review: A Penetrating Question → “What is happening in my life?”

A Biblical Fact → “Spiritual Maturity demands Believer be Heavenly Minded!”

A. The First of Five Eternal Perspectives:

→ God has begun a **“Good Work”** in my life which He is **“perfecting”**, Phil. 1:6.

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

B. The Second of Five Eternal Perspectives:

→ God is at **“Work”** producing **“Desire”** which leads to **“Faithful Obedience”**, Phil. 2:13.

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

C. The Third of Five Eternal Perspectives:

→ God is at **“Work”** in every Believer to produce an **“Intimate Knowledge”** of His Son, Phil 3:10.

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

D. The Fourth of Five Eternal Perspectives:

→ God is at **“Work”** in every Believer to produce an **“Accurate Understanding”** of our **“citizenship”**, our **“home”**, Phil 3:20.

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Fifth Eternal Perspective

“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”

Philippians 4:11

God is at “work” in every Believer to produce an attitude of Christ-like contentment!

Background Observation:

The Believer in Jesus Christ lives under two major types of hindrances to Godly “contentment”:

- 1) The “_____” of God on all of creation because of the sinful rebellion of mankind, Genesis 3:17-19. This includes death, disease, decay, and universal “breakdown”!
- 2) The “**Spiritual** _____” between good and evil, God and Satan, which has existed since before God created our world. Jesus Christ described warfare for His disciples just before His death, resurrection, and ascension back to heaven:

--John 15:18-19

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

I. The “_____” of Christ, Phil. 2:5-8.

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

A. “Contentment” for Jesus was a daily “_____”!

→ **A “_____” and a “_____” for “_____”!**

→ **This produced “_____” on all of life!**

→ **Biblical “contentment” is based on proper “_____”!**

Biblical “perspective” is _____ all of life as God sees it!

“They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, ‘Sit here until I have prayed.’ And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. And He said to them, ‘My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch.’ And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray . . .” Mark 14:32-35

→ **“Father, enable Me to see this moment, this day, through Your eyes!”**

B. “Contentment” for Jesus was a controlling “_____”!

→ **Toward “_____”, the “_____”!**

→ **Acceptance of His “_____” as a matter of trust → “faith”!**

“And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, that the hour might pass Him by. And He was saying, ‘Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me . . .” Mark 14:35-36

→ **“Yet, Father, this request would represent “_____” in You!”**

C. **“Contentment”** for Jesus was a personal “_____”!

→ **About** “_____”, **God, the** “_____”!

“... yet not what I will, but what You will.” Mark 14:36

→ **Acceptance of the Father’s “will”** was a matter of personal “_____”!

“Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a **bond-servant** . . .” Phil. 2:6-7

“I glorified You on the earth, having **accomplished the work** which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” John 17:4-5

→ **“Father, My choice is** “_____” **with** **Who I am in You!”**

II. **The** “_____” **of Paul, Phil. 4:11-12.**

“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be **content** in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance **I have learned the secret** of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.”

A. **“Contentment”** for Paul was a daily “_____”!

→ A **“Time”** and **“Place”** for “_____”!

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” Colossians 3:1-4

→ **This produced** “_____” **on all of life!**

“Be **anxious** for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, will **guard your hearts** and **your minds** in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

B. **“Contentment”** for Paul was a controlling “_____”

→ **Toward** “_____”!

→ **Acceptance of His** “_____” **as matter of trust** → **“faith”!**

1) God’s “_____”: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13

2) God’s “_____”: “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

C. “Contentment” for Paul was a personal “_____”!

→ Toward “_____”, the one “called” to glorify God!

→ Acceptance of His “will” was a matter of identity → “_____”!

“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I might gain Christ.” Philippians 3:7-8

III. The “Contentment” of our own lives, Phil. 4:9.

“The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

“But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called . . .” I Timothy 6:6-12

Probing Questions

1. Do you have a “time” and “place” for “_____” → “Waiting” on God?

--This produces “perspective” for all of life!

--Note: Keys to “waiting” on God are separation and silence!

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” John 14:27

“These things I have spoken to you, so that IN ME you may have Peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

2. Have you learned how to “take God at His Word” → Simple “_____”?

--True “contentment” is based on “_____” God!

--The illustration of Abraham:

“Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.” Romans 4:19-21

3. Do you need to confess the sin of “_____” of contentment?→ “**Unbelief**”?
--Indications of “unbelief” are: Worry, Anger, Irritability, Jealousy, Envy, Criticism!
“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusts in Thee.” (KJV) Isaiah 26:3

Helpful Quotation

(From William MacDonald)
1917-2007

“Contentment” in Relation to Financial Matters:

*“In (Philippians 4) verses 10-19, Paul speaks of the relationship which existed between the church in Philippi and himself in connection with financial assistance. . . . He would have them know that he is quite independent of such mundane circumstances. He had learned . . . **to be content**, no matter what his financial condition might be. Contentment is really greater than riches, for if contentment does not produce riches, it achieves the same object by banishing the desire for them.”*

*“It is a blessed secret when the Believer learns how to carry a high head with an empty stomach, an upright look with an empty pocket, a happy heart with an unpaid salary, **joy in God when men are faithless.**”*

*“How had the Apostle **learned** such a lesson? Simply in this way: he was **confident** that he was **in the will of God**. He knew that wherever he was, or in whatever circumstances he found himself, **he was there by Divine appointment**. If he was hungry, it was because God wanted him hungry. If he was full, it was because his Lord had so planned it. Busily and faithfully engaged in the service of his King, he could say, ‘Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.’ ”*

*“Then the Apostle adds the words which have been a puzzle to many: ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’ . . . When the Apostle Paul said that he could ‘do all things’, he meant **all things which were God’s will** for Him to do. He had learned that **the Lord’s commands are the Lord’s enablements**. He knew that God would never call on him to accomplish some task without giving the necessary grace. ‘All things’ probably applies not so much to great feats of daring as to great privations and hungerings.”*

*“When Paul says ‘I have **all**’ he means ‘I have all **I need**’ . . . Hudson Taylor once said, **‘God’s work carried on in God’s way will never lack God’s resources.’**”*

“Five Eternal Perspectives On Earthly Living”

Summary

1. God has begun a “**Good Work**” in my life which He is “**perfecting**”, Phil. 1:6.
“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”
→ God sovereignly deals with the temporary things of earth for the benefit of the things which are eternal – being “conformed” to His Son, Jesus Christ!
2. God is at “**Work**” producing a “**Desire**” for “**Faithful Obedience**” to Jesus Christ, Phil. 2:13.
“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”
→ God has the right to use our lives in any way He chooses in order to bring glory to Himself!
3. God is at “**Work**” in every Believer to produce an “**Intimate Knowledge**” of His Son, Phil. 3:10.
“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”
→ The Believer’s “Union” with Jesus Christ is the source of “Life” – He is **all** we need for life and godliness!
4. God is at “**Work**” in every Believer to produce an “**Accurate Understanding**” of our “**citizenship**”-- our “**home**” in His presence, Phil. 3:20.
“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
→ Our present “**identity**” as citizens of Heaven brings release and freedom from the pressure of “conformity” to this world-system and “fear” of the future!
5. God is at “**Work**” in every Believer to produce an “**Attitude**” of Christ-like “**contentment**” in the circumstances of life, Phil. 4:11.
“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”
→ An attitude of “**contentment**” which is shown in the sovereign circumstances of a Believer’s life is powerful evidence of true love for God and bringing glory to Him! It refutes Satan’s accusation that no one will love God for who He is, if earthly “blessings” are removed, Job 1:9-12.