

## Psalm 23 - Where True Contentment Lies

August 22, 2019

*Psalm 23:1-6 ESV A Psalm of David.*

*1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

*3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

*5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

**Psalm 23:1** ESV A Psalm of David.

**1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want (*chacer - to lack, be without*).**

- *Psalm 23:1 is a statement of contentment and heart condition, not gain or material possession.*
- *Our Shepherd doesn't give us everything we want, but everything we need.*
- *His continual presence in our lives as our Shepherd causes us to be content with whatever He ordains.*
- *As long as the Shepherd is present, the sheep don't care how meager or how lavish the provision.*
- *The more satisfied I am in Jesus, the more weaned I am from the world and sin.*
- *The abiding presence of my Shepherd is my true treasure. Being satisfied in Him, I am content with whatever He ordains for me in this life.*

### Rules of Contentment:

- 1. The flesh must be denied and crucified. It is never satisfied, never content and always striving in covetousness and envy.**

*"It is the great moment of our lives when we decide that sin must die right out, not be curbed or suppressed or counteracted, but crucified." —Oswald Chambers*

Ecclesiastes 1:8-9 ESV

**8 All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.**

**9 What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.**

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 ESV

**10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.**

**11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.**

James 3:14-16 ESV

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

Matthew 16:24-26 ESV

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Colossians 3:5-6 ESV

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

## 2. The mind must be reprogrammed and renewed to God's baseline of expectation.

**Contentment only comes when our life's baseline expectations are set by God's Truth.**

- *Whatever does not align with and advance God's purpose in life is simply of little or no value or consequence. Judge every desire and circumstance by that rule.*
- *If only we could reduce and simplify all of life's circumstances to one question, "What would please God?"*

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- transformed (*metamorphoō*) transfigure
- renewal (*anakainōsis*) new in quality, not time, complete change for the better

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 ESV

13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

*"We must continually remind ourselves of the purpose of life. We are not destined to happiness, nor to health, but to holiness. Today we have far too many desires and interests, and our lives are being consumed and wasted by them. Many of them may be right, noble, and good, and may later be fulfilled, but in the meantime God must cause their importance to us to decrease. The only thing that truly matters is whether a person will accept the God who will make him holy. At all costs, a person must have the right relationship with God."*

—Oswald Chambers, Destined to be Holy

Jude 1:24-25 ESV

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ESV

23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

*“There are two days in my calendar: This day and that Day.”*

— Martin Luther

### **3. The regenerated spirit must satisfied and filled to overflowing with the goodness of God. When we are satisfied in God, we are weaned from this world and content in whatever circumstances, good or bad.**

*Psalm 36:7-9 ESV*

7 How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

8 They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

*John 4:13-14 ESV*

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

*Hebrews 13:5 ESV*

5 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."

- content (arkeō - to be satisfied, contented, to defend, to ward off, possessed of unfailing strength)
- To be satisfied in God is to lose interest in all else.

*Psalm 16:5-6 ESV*

5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

- When I choose the Lord as my portion and cup, then the lines and boundaries of my life that He has set will be pleasant and beautiful.
- If the Lord is not my chosen portion and cup, then I will never be content with His lines and boundaries for my life. I will always be coveting and striving.

*Philippians 4:11-13 ESV*

*11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.*

*12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.*

*13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

- *As long as the Shepherd is present, the sheep are content no matter how meager or how lavish the provision.*