

I Can Do All Things through Christ

Scripture

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:10-13 NKJV)

Thesis

We must learn to be content in every situation by resting in Christ.

Commentary

We have here the confession of a veteran Christian. Paul does not say that he was instantly able to be content. Rather, he says he has learned how to be content. Christ also learned obedience, or in His case experienced obedience for He was without sin. “Though He was a Son, [yet] He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” (Hebrews 5:8 NKJV) We too must learn to be content in whatever state we find ourselves.

Running ahead of the Lord or trying to control life’s situations can lead to horrific consequences. It doesn’t matter if the condition you are in is favorable or not, seeking to escape or enhance your condition creates opportunities for temptation.

It’s not wrong to take legitimate opportunities as they present themselves. The problem arises when discontentment blinds you to the real nature of the opportunities as they are presented. An example will help here. If I really dislike my boss because he is greedy and unkind, and I am presented with an opportunity to take another job, because of my discontentment I might overlook a condition of the new job that will cause me more grief in the future. Perhaps the new job requires me to do something against my conscience.

Therefore, it is not wrong to improve your condition when you may, but it is wrong to seek to escape your situation because you are unwilling to rest in Christ in your current situation. The discontentment exposes you to sinful temptations. The darkest hour in my Christian life overtook me because I was not content to enjoy the blessing God had given me. I wanted more, and ignoring the warning signs brought others and me more grief than I can describe. Remember, Satan transforms himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14).

Paul tells us the secret to his success. He can do all things through Christ. He was content to live in hunger, and he was content to live in abundance because Christ was his real treasure. He learned not to be pulled this way and that way to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. For him living meant Christ and dying was gain!

The question we all need to ask ourselves is, "Is Christ our all and all?" Is He enough for you? If you are not content to live for Him in the situation He has allowed you to be in, then you are exposed to great danger. The devil has a perfect fulcrum to pry you from the way.

Learn how to be content in every situation. Rest in Christ and wait for heaven. This world is passing away, but the next one is eternal. Live for that eternity.

Father, what evil has come upon men for their lack of contentment! Lord, I cannot bear the memory of past sins. However, I will be content to do so for they remind me of a great lesson. Surely, Lord, we learn from our failures. Have mercy on us when we do fail Lord for we do not wish to do so. Let each of us learn to be content in every situation so that we do not give the devil opportunity, amen.