



# Grace Life Church *of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

# **Meet Jeremiah Christopher Wilkens**

**Born this morning at 3:14am**

**Both Jeremiah and Stephanie are doing well**





# Philippians 4:10-13

## Contentment is Found in Christ Alone

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## Philippians 4:10-13

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 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.

## Philippians 4:14-20

4 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. 19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **1 Timothy 6:6-8**

*But godliness with **contentment** is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be **content**.*

## **2 Corinthians 12:8-10**

*Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am **content** with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

# What is contentment?

A state of complete soul satisfaction and sufficiency that circumstances (negative or positive) cannot impact.

**Evidences of discontentment:** Covetousness and Complaining

## The Object of Paul's Contentment:

- 1:21 *To live is Christ and to die is gain*
- 1:27 *Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ*
- 1:29 *For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake*
- 3:7-8 *whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count all things as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*
- 3:14 *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*
- 3:20 *Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*

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

- Paul learned that contentment was not found in situations but in a Person
  - Whatever the situation (In any and every situation) Paul learned contentment
- Jesus Christ is more than a Savior from sin. He is a Savior unto Himself as our treasure (Matt 13:44), and the sufficient object of soul satisfying contentment
- Jesus Christ = Contentment
- Jesus Christ + \_\_\_\_\_ = Contentment
- What you look to for contentment will end up being magnified and glorified in and through us
- *“God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him”*  
Desiring God



## ***12 I know how to be brought low,***

- The apostle Paul knew what it was to be brought low (2 Cor 11:23-29)
- Acts 16:16-24

## ***and I know how to abound.***

- Is there something that you believe if it was added to your life, you could be content? (Money, success, approval of man, marriage, children)
- It's not wrong to desire something other than Jesus Christ, but it is wrong when the addition of something or the removal of something controls our contentment.

## ***In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.***

- What's the secret to having contentment in any and every circumstance?
- Learning that contentment is not found in any circumstance, but in Christ

# Let's all ask, "What am I looking to in addition to Christ for contentment?"

- Jesus + \_\_\_\_\_ = Contentment
- Health, wealth, marriage, different/better marriage, children, more/less children, more obedient children, better parents, better pastors, better church, better looking, better job, better house/car
  - What they all say is "Jesus alone isn't enough for me"
- It's not wrong to want/desire some of these things, but it is wrong to say "I can't be contentment with/without this."
- When we look for contentment in Jesus plus something else:
  - We rob Jesus of His glory as the all-sufficient Savior
  - We are miserable because we are looking horizontally for what can only be found vertically
  - We hurt others by putting unrealistic expectations on them by asking them to be our functional savior
- When you aren't finding your sufficiency in Jesus Christ, you are always seeking to **get**, but when you find sufficiency in Jesus Christ, you realize you already **got**, so now you are free to **give**

*V13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*

- Jesus is not only the object of our contentment, but He is the means (enables)
- This is a faith issue (The sufficiency of Jesus Christ)
- In any and every circumstance if we look to Jesus, He will empower us to see and embrace with joy His all-sufficient soul satisfying self!
- May the Lord convict each of us today of what we are looking to for contentment in addition to Him.
- May the Lord draw us into deeper communion and revelation, through the Word, illuminated by the Spirit, so that we would be persuaded that Jesus is all we need.
- If we have nothing but Jesus, we have everything; and if we have everything but Jesus, we have nothing.