

*Bible
Teachings
Series*

*A self-study on
contentment*



Enough is Enough

Enough is Enough

A self-study on contentment



**Multi-Language
Productions**

Bringing the Word to the World

The original text is produced by Prison Ministries and adapted by Multi-Language Productions of the Board for World Missions of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

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Level 1, Book 29



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Getting Started

This book will help you find the secret for being content, even when you have many troubles and sorrows.

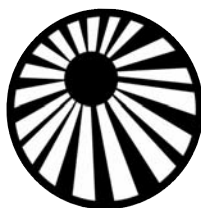
After each set of questions and after each chapter test, you will see a page number where you can find the correct answers to those questions. Check each of your answers and correct them if necessary.

At the end of the book is a final test. Before you take the test, go back and review the chapter tests. When you complete the final test, you can either return it to the person who gave you this book or mail it to the address found on the back cover of the book. Someone will check the test.

May God help you through this book to become content.



God cares for Paul and Silas.



Chapter One

Contentment comes from Jesus

Are you content? Are you satisfied with what you have? Are you satisfied with where you are? Are you satisfied with who you are?

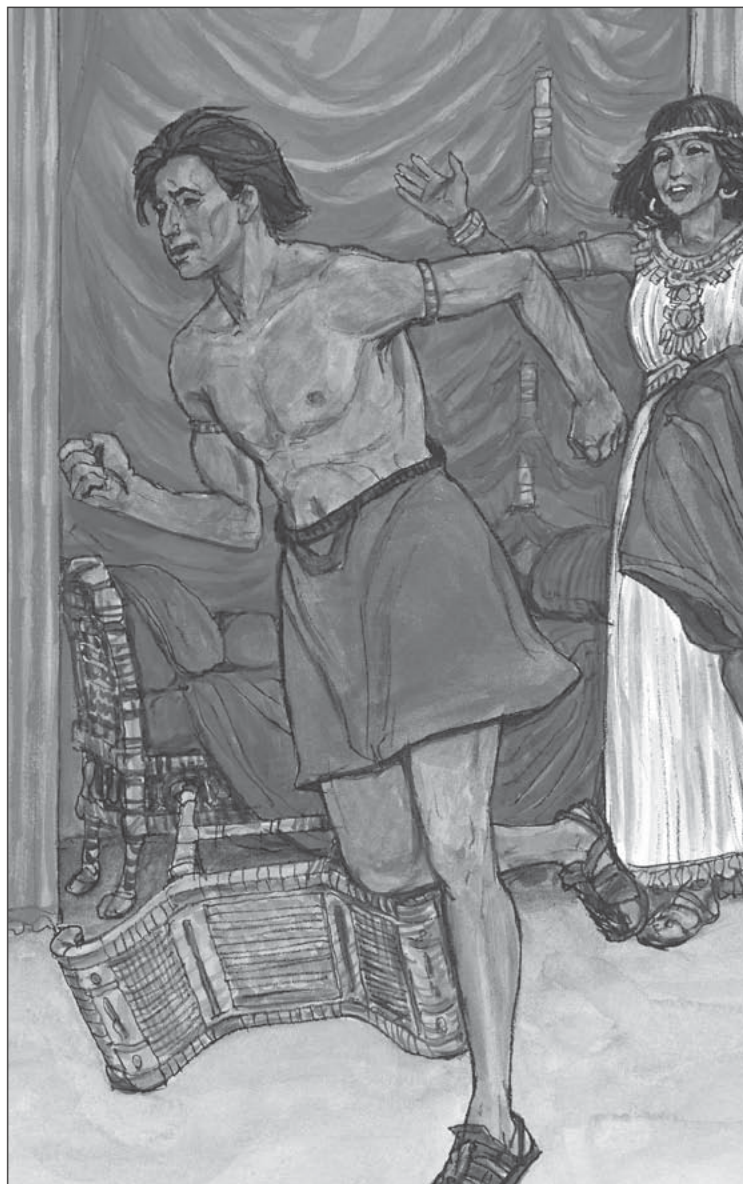
You might immediately reply, “No, I don’t want to be here.” But you are here. Until that changes, lack of contentment will only make matters worse.

Some of you may ask, “Can I be content to be in jail? Can I be OK about spending time separated from my family and friends?” Let’s

find out from the man who was inspired by God to write most of the books of the New Testament. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, wrote the following words while in jail.

...I have learned to be content no matter what happens to me. I know what it's like not to have what I need. I also know what it's like to have more than I need. I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength (Philippians 4:11-13).

How fitting to think that God had Paul write these words while he was a prisoner. God is inviting you, like Paul, to find contentment in his Son, Jesus Christ, no matter who you are, where you are, or what you have. It didn't matter how much Paul had. It didn't matter where Paul was. It didn't even matter who Paul was. He knew who his Savior was. He knew what Jesus had done for him. He was aware of what Jesus continued to do for him. Paul was



Paul in Rome.

content as long as he kept his Savior at the center of his thinking.

Paul admitted that he wasn't always like this. Being content was something he had to learn. He even refers to it as a secret. People who learn this secret can be satisfied no matter what. They can be as satisfied on a bunk in a jail cell as they are on a sunbed on a Jamaican beach. The secret Paul discovered was that Jesus was with him no matter where he was. Paul began to feel content when he discovered that he was surrounded by Jesus and his love. This is a secret because we can't see Jesus with our eyes. We simply trust what he tells us. When Jesus ascended into heaven he promised to be with us always until judgment day. That's when believers will get to be with him in heaven forever. The more Paul learned how close Jesus was to him, the more his contentment grew. The more he learned how loving Jesus was, the longer his contentment lasted.

1. To be content is to be _____.

2. A content person can be _____ about being separated from family and friends.
3. The Bible tells us it is possible to be content no matter _____.
4. There is a secret to contentment; it has to be _____.
5. Paul began to feel content when he discovered he was surrounded by _____ and his love.
6. The more Paul learned about Jesus, the more his contentment _____.
7. The more Paul learned about Jesus, the longer his contentment _____.

(Check your answers on page 13)

Paul first discovered that Jesus was with him while traveling on a road to a city called Damascus (Acts 9). Paul was using his Jewish name at the time—Saul. He was doing devilish work. He was finding Christians and putting



Jesus calls Paul on the road to Damascus.

them under terrible pressure until they gave up their faith in Jesus. But on this day as Paul came near to Damascus, the blinding light of Jesus' glory knocked him to the ground. He couldn't see Jesus. He heard Jesus' voice. Paul hadn't believed the claims that Jesus had risen from the dead. Now he realized they were true. Paul was frightened to be with Jesus at first. But when he realized that Jesus was his Savior, being with Jesus became the source of peace and contentment for him.

With Jesus at his side Paul learned he had Jesus' power working for him. This was a power that could change things. That power had completely changed the way God looked at Paul. Paul had been totally guilty and an enemy of God. Now he was entirely guilt free (1 Timothy 1:15). No, Jesus didn't do this with a snap of his fingers. Jesus changed Paul's standing in the eyes of a perfect God by keeping all of God's laws in Paul's place. He did this for you, too. Jesus kept all of God's commandments throughout his life. Jesus then suffered the punishment that Paul and you and I deserve for all the times we break God's law (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus served as a

sacrifice to pay for all sin, all of Paul's sin and all of ours. He died on a cross. Paul could be content, then, to know that if something was going wrong in his life, Jesus would change it. Jesus could and would do what was needed to change it. What if it didn't change? Then Jesus must be OK with it just the way it is. Paul remained satisfied. We can be content, too, because of Jesus' love for each of us.

Paul was certain of Jesus' love for him. That was clear from the willingness of Jesus to give up his life for him on a cross (Romans 5:7,8). Paul knew God had every right to be angry with him for his many sins. God had the ability to take away everything he had. But God loved him. When Paul had a lot, he learned to see Jesus' love behind it. Jesus was letting him have these things. When Paul was in trouble, he learned to look past it to the one who had rescued him from far worse—from eternal trouble in hell. If Jesus took away what Paul had, he knew Jesus' love was behind that, too.

The secret of Paul's contentment was his ability to see Jesus with him no matter what his

situation. Jesus was at his side. Jesus was on his side. You, too, can remain content as you look beyond the changes in your life to see Jesus. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His love for you never wavers. His power never varies. We don't have to wait for Jesus to knock us down on a road to discover this. But if that's what it takes, we can be glad if he does it.

We can meet Jesus in his Word—the Bible. Please, begin today to let Jesus tell you and assure you how often he is with you and how close he is to you. Turn now to the book of Hebrews, chapter 13, verse 5. Know that Jesus is talking to you when he promises, “I will never leave you. I will never desert you.”

8. Jesus had the power to change our _____ before God.
9. Contentment comes with knowing that Jesus can _____ things.
10. If something doesn't change, we trust Jesus must be _____ with it.

11. Because Jesus gave up his life for you, be sure that Jesus _____ you.
12. When we have a lot, Jesus' _____ must be behind it.
13. When we have very little, Jesus' _____ must be behind it.
14. Contentment looks beyond the changes in our lives to see _____.

(Check your answers on page 13)

Review of Chapter One

A content person is satisfied with the way things are. It doesn't matter whether they appear good or bad. Contentment is something we have to learn. We can get better at it. What is the secret to contentment? It is a gift provided by Jesus alone.

Paul, the apostle, was given the gift of contentment by Jesus when Jesus convinced him of his love and power. In his love Jesus had died for Paul to win forgiveness of his sins. Jesus' sacrifice changed Paul's standing before God. Jesus has done the same for all of us.

Remember Jesus' love for you and his power to change things. Then you will be able to see Jesus in everything that happens around you. You will gain the strength to confess, "If this is OK with Jesus it will be OK for me, too."

Answers to the questions in Chapter One:

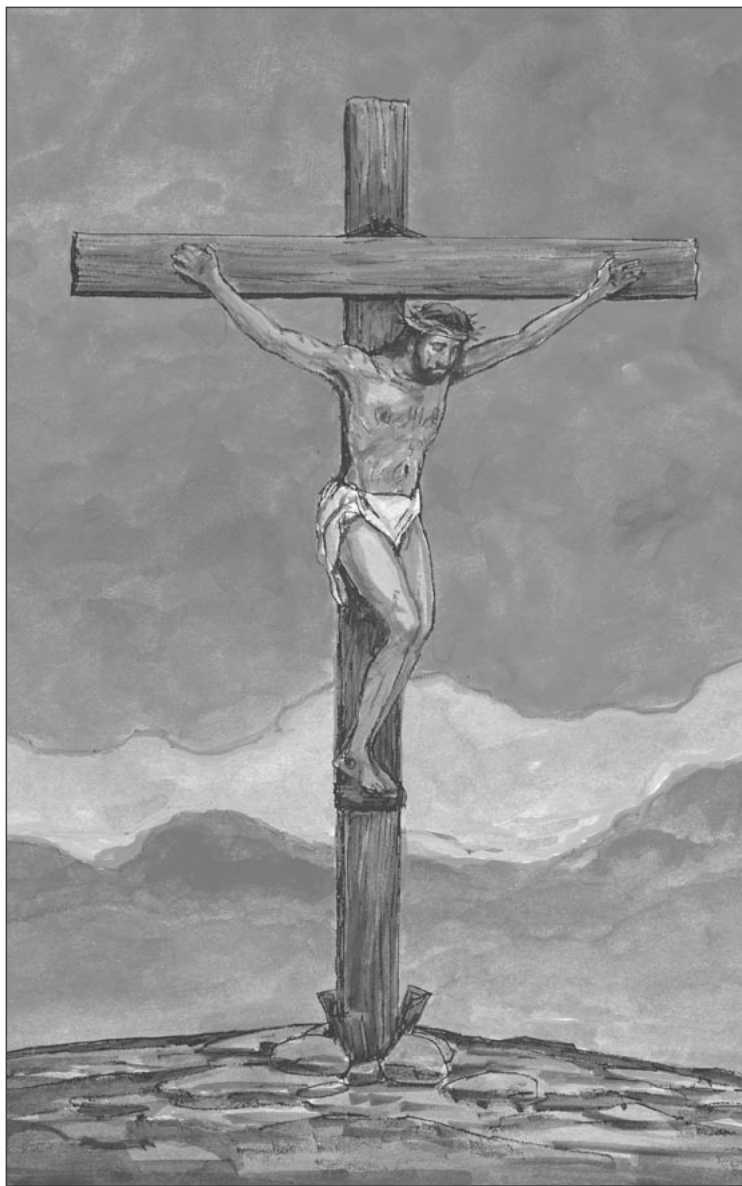
1. satisfied; 2. OK; 3. what happens to me; 4. learned; 5. Jesus; 6. grew; 7. lasted; 8. standing; 9. change; 10. OK; 11. loves; 12. love; 13. love; 14. Jesus.

Test on Chapter One

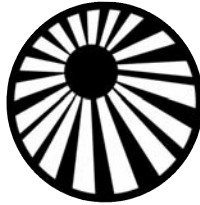
1. To be content is to be _____.
2. Paul, the apostle, is an excellent example of _____.
3. Paul's contentment was a gift from _____.
4. Jesus had changed Paul's _____ before God.
5. With Jesus in charge, Paul was sure everything was _____.
6. Since Jesus died for him Paul knew Jesus _____ him.
7. Since Jesus was alive from the dead Paul knew Jesus was _____ him.
8. Contentment comes with knowing Jesus _____ things.

9. If something doesn't change, we trust Jesus must be _____ with it.
10. Contentment looks beyond changing circumstances to see _____.

(Check your answers on page 57)



Jesus saves us by shedding his blood on the cross.



Chapter Two

Contentment really matters

Paul discovered a way to think about money that was out of this world. The people of this world tend to feel that money is all a person needs. "Money can buy anything," they imagine. Not true! Peter, Paul's coworker, explains in his first letter, "You know that you were not bought with things that can pass away, like silver or gold. Instead, you were bought by the priceless blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19). No amount of money can buy a ticket to heaven. Jesus' blood that he shed for us on a cross is the one and only payment that gets us to heaven eternally.

How much silver or gold he had was no longer a concern for Paul. It didn't matter to him how much other people had either. Paul even referred to such things as garbage.

I thought things like that were for my benefit. But now I consider them to be nothing because of Christ. Even more, I consider everything to be nothing compared to knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. To know him is the best thing of all. Because of him I have lost everything. But I consider all of it to be garbage so I can get to know Christ. I want to be joined to him (Philippians 3:7-9).

“Things” are even worse than garbage if they get in the way of our faith in Jesus. Only Jesus can save us from sin, death, and hell. Paul was ready and willing to lose all things so nothing would weaken his faith in Jesus. Anything else he had looked worthless in comparison. He was content to have Jesus. He was willing to allow Jesus to control what he had. He was willing to have Jesus set how much he had. Perhaps we don't think of body parts as possessions. Jesus actually suggested it would be far better for us in the end if we gave up a hand, or even an eye, rather than part with him.

Our hand or eye can't help us get to heaven, can they? But they can get us involved in activities that lead us away from faith in our one and only Savior.

1. No amount of silver or gold buys us a
to heaven.
2. The shed blood of Jesus provides us a home in
.
3. Compared to Jesus, silver and gold look like
.
4. We don't want any thing(s) to weaken our
in Jesus.

(Check your answers on page 26)

What if Jesus decided that Paul would have trouble? If Jesus wanted Paul to struggle, Paul was OK with that. He was aware of the struggle Jesus had gone through for him. Jesus suffered hell in his place. He was aware what that struggle accomplished for him. Paul was an heir of heaven. So Paul did not stumble when his troubles came. He welcomed them. His troubles were numerous! Imagine! Paul was in three shipwrecks. We never hear Paul complain about them. He might have

bragged about them. These shipwrecks allowed Paul to experience God's rescue. They gave him a chance to serve fellow castaways. He could even introduce them to Christ. Most people would consider a shipwreck bad luck. After three shipwrecks, Paul was ready to see them as God's hand. We might imagine Paul, as the third ship was going down, having a knowing smile. Perhaps he thought, "All right, Lord, here we go again." Paul was content even when things were toughest.

It is unlikely that any of us have been in a shipwreck. We might, however, describe our lives as a shipwreck. Bad things may have occurred in our lives. Perhaps we've experienced abuse. Maybe our marriage is wrecked. Closeness to children can be lost. Our finances could be a mess. At times, we are on the wrong side of the law. We might be tempted to groan, "Life is not fair." But Jesus went through worse trouble than you or I will ever see. He did that for us. He did that to rescue us from the horrors of hell. We can trust him to be with us during all our shipwrecks. We can trust him to bring us through those shipwrecks all the way home to heaven.

"As long as I have my health," people often say. They are suggesting they are content as long as

they are healthy. Paul didn't have perfect health, however. He had something wrong with him. He referred to it as a "thorn" or a problem that caused pain in his body. Ouch! Even so, Paul learned to be content. He learned from Jesus that this problem was a gift. It wasn't a curse. It helped him remember that he was not able to take care of himself completely. He needed Jesus' help at all times. When Paul accomplished wonderful things, he knew it was actually Jesus accomplishing wonderful things through him. When people tried to thank and praise him, Paul gave Jesus the credit. His "thorn" reminded him to give the right Person the glory.

Finally, Paul was content in the face of death. He had grown more and more certain of Jesus' presence with him at every stage of life. He had no doubts that Jesus would be with him in and after death. He was eager to have Jesus' greatest promise come true for him as he left this world. "Now there is a crown waiting for me. It is given to those who are right with God. The Lord, who judges fairly, will give it to me on the day he returns. He will not give it only to me. He will also give it to all those who are longing for him to return" (2 Timothy 4:8).



Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for water.

Does that describe you? Are you looking forward to life with Jesus in heaven or are you only concerned about your life on earth? Jesus told a woman he met at a well, “All who drink this water will be thirsty again” (John 4:13). He invited her instead to receive the water of life. He was referring to himself. Jesus warned, “Do not put away riches for yourselves on earth. Moths and rust can destroy them” (Matthew 6:19). In a parable Jesus spoke of a man who spent his life building bigger barns and filling them to the rafters, only to die and leave it all to someone else. King Solomon rightly calls the race people run to grab money, power, and fame, “chasing the wind.”

The hymn writer, Georg M. Pfefferkorn, did an excellent job of comparing the way the world works and the way God’s kingdom works. “The world seeks after wealth and all that money offers, yet never is content though gold should fill its coffers. I have a higher good; content with it I’ll be; my Jesus is my wealth—what is the world to me! What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure, my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my pleasure, my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss eternally. Once more then I declare: What is the world to me” (Christian Worship 477, verses 3 and 4).

Those in the kingdom of God love to be with Jesus. They have no greater goal. There will be no shame in that, only eternal life. Jesus teaches this with two stories he told. They are recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 13, verses 44 through 46.

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure that was hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went and sold everything he had. And he bought that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl.

5. Paul was able to _____ his numerous troubles.
6. Three shipwrecks allowed Paul to experience God's _____.
7. A painful health issue reminded Paul that _____ was working through him.

8. Paul was even content to face
and be with Jesus forever.
9. Trying to get all the things the world offers to us
is chasing after the .
10. Filling our lives with love for Jesus results in
eternal .

(Check your answers on page 26)

Review of Chapter Two

Christians are satisfied because they benefit from the most valuable treasure that has ever been found. Nothing has accomplished more any time in history. Jesus' blood was shed for them. It provides them a heavenly home that could not be purchased by any amount of gold or silver. We never want the things that the world provides to push Jesus out of our hearts or schedules. They can't gain us heaven. They could lose heaven for us.

Losing things won't affect our contentment as long as we remember we have the treasure of Jesus' blood. Jesus shed his blood for us. The more Paul lost of this world, the more apparent it was to him that Jesus could be depended on. He was satisfied losing his health if that meant people could see Jesus in him more clearly. He was even content losing his life. That meant gaining eternal life with Christ.

The things that this world can provide do not promote contentment. People of the world always want to have more. In God's kingdom, Jesus is all we need. He provided himself as the sacrifice for our sins. That's something none of us could have ever expected. He provides as an eternity with him in heaven. That's something none of us can imagine. As we live with Jesus, we can trust he will provide us everything we need throughout our lives in this world and the next.

Answers to the questions in Chapter Two:

1. ticket; 2. heaven; 3. garbage; 4. faith; 5. welcome;
6. rescue; 7. Jesus; 8. death; 9. wind; 10. life.

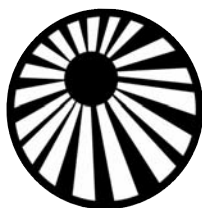


Jesus returns to heaven.

Test on Chapter Two

1. We are content if all we have is Jesus' _____
which provides us heaven.
2. We will see as _____ those things that
get in the way of our faith in Jesus.
3. _____ knows best what we
should or should not have.
4. We even welcome _____ from
Jesus.
5. When we are sick or in pain we learn that we
Jesus' help.
6. We can be content as we face
because we will soon be with Jesus.
7. Trying to get all the things the world offers to us
is a chasing after the _____.
8. Filling our lives with love for Jesus results in
eternal _____.

(Check your answers on page 57)



Chapter Three

Contentment keeps us out of trouble

Wanting something that doesn't belong to us is not godly. Such desire opens the door of our heart to invite in the devil. The greedy feel they don't have enough stuff. People who envy other people imagine they don't have the right stuff. Both deny God's generous love and his faithful care. Eve's and Adam's first sin happened because they thought the devil could take better care of them than God. You can read all about this in Genesis 3.

Worry is also a sin. Those who worry doubt God's ability or his desire to fulfill their day-to-day needs.

Whether greedy, envious, or a worrywart, all such people feel they have to take care of themselves. They refuse to trust the Lord. They don't respect his timing. They aren't satisfied with the Lord's care. This lack of contentment leads to all kinds of trouble.

James, one of the men God caused to write the Bible, calls lack of contentment "evil." Check out the troubles that he tells us will result from this kind of evil.

"But your own evil longings tempt you. They lead you on and drag you away. When they are allowed to grow, they give birth to sin. When sin has grown up, it gives birth to death" (James 1:14-15).

Wanting something more than God provides us isn't just sinful thinking. It is also dangerous thinking.

A person who is not content wants more than God provides. A person who is not content wants stuff before God provides it. The devil loves that sinful thinking. He will use that sinful thinking to tempt you into sinful words and actions. He will trick you into thinking you are smart enough to cheat people out of what you want. Lack of contentment leads



Ahab covets Naboth's vineyard.

you to commit fraud by lying to other people. When you are caught you lose what you gained by cheating. You may even lose your freedom. God knows what you have done even if you don't get caught. To avoid the temptation that you need more stuff, you can find contentment in Jesus. You can find contentment in his love. He forgives you and provides you heaven as your eternal home.

The devil also tricks you into thinking you are strong enough to snatch what you desire. He will lead you to argue with others about what is "rightfully" yours. Hard feelings result, fights occur, even gunshots can get fired. Lack of contentment can lead you to theft, to robbery, even to murder. When you are caught, you lose what you gained. You may even lose your freedom.

You can be glad to be caught if that means hearing the Word and being introduced or reintroduced to your Savior, Jesus Christ. You can discover how well he intends to take care of you in this world and the next.

If you can't get what you want, the devil prompts you to feel sorry for yourself. He closes your eyes to all the blessings God is providing you. He prompts you to have narrow thinking. He convinces

you that only special “stuff” can make you happy. He may provide you with “friends” who have harmful ways to bring you “peace” and “joy.” The devil may tempt you with all kinds of drugs and plenty of illegal sex with other unsatisfied people. All of this, though, is only the devil’s road to the worst kind of goal, to have you spend eternity with him in hell. The devil may even lead us to want a person in a way that is unhealthy and dangerous. He gets us to imagine, “Only that person can make me happy!”

Don’t let the devil control your life. To be content is to be OK that I am not with a person if that person isn’t interested in me. Sometimes we have to give up being with a person who can no longer trust us. Jesus can help us accept this, too. We show our love for them and for God by leaving them entirely alone. This will be especially difficult if this person was a boyfriend, girlfriend, or a spouse.

Loving ties with other people, like stuff, are a gift from God. They are freely given. We don’t have a right to enter the life of another person. We can’t demand love. We would have to describe that as slavery rather than love.

1. Adam and Eve sinned because they thought the _____ could take better care of them than _____ .
2. Wanting more than God provides us puts us in _____ .
3. The devil tricks unsatisfied people into thinking they are smart enough to _____ people.
4. The devil prompts unsatisfied people to demand what is _____ theirs.
5. Unsatisfied people seek harmful ways to get _____ and _____ .
6. It is better for unsatisfied people to get _____ than lose heaven.

(Check your answers on page 40)

Paul wrote the young Pastor Timothy, “People who want to get rich are tempted. They fall into a trap. They are tripped up by wanting many foolish and harmful things. Those who live like that are dragged down by what they do. They are destroyed and die” (1 Timothy 6:9). You and I, by God’s grace, can avoid all these pitfalls. We won’t

have any evil desire to get rich when we know that we are already rich. We are far richer than we deserve to be. We are as rich as is possible. Paul says that the people who are truly wealthy are the ones who know “the grace shown by our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though he was rich, he became poor to help you. Because he became poor, you can become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

We might be tempted to think, “I’m rich with a heavenly home after I die. But how does that help me now?” I’ve even heard people shout this hopeless cry, “Jesus isn’t going to put food on my table!” Jesus himself said just the opposite in his Sermon on the Mount. As the Son of God, Jesus reminds us how generously God feeds the birds of the air, how richly he clothes the flowers of the field, and he makes it clear that we are far more valuable to God than birds and flowers. If that isn’t encouraging enough, Paul reminds us that God gave us his very own, and only, Son to suffer and die for us. He will certainly provide us everything else we need.

Those who trust that God is providing them don’t fail to notice what he provides them. Here’s a healthy habit. Make a list of all that God provides you. You can do this in your mind. You can do this



Jesus gives us all that we need.

on a piece of paper. You could do that each morning after waking up and each evening before going to bed. This will fill your prayers with thanksgiving. It will help you be content.

Those who remember that God provides what they have will use what he gives them in the best possible way. When God provides us a twenty dollar bill, we will be surprised instead of disappointed. We will thank God. We will consider how he would have us spend it. God means to bless us with this money. He also wants this money to be a blessing to others around us. So we try to be good managers even with a twenty dollar bill. We consider carefully how we might use it well. Jesus says, "Suppose you can be trusted with very little. Then you can be trusted with a lot" (Luke 16:10). God can turn twenty dollars into a whole lot more than we can, if only we let him.

How might a content person use twenty dollars? He might set aside two dollars to give back to the Lord. Then it will be available when he goes to church to hear God's Word. He might set aside five dollars in a safe place to be used for a bigger purchase at a future date. That way he doesn't have to use a credit card or borrow money and pay interest. He might go to a grocery store for a half

gallon of milk, a half pound of sliced turkey, a head of lettuce, a loaf of bread, and a small container of mustard. With this he can eat sandwiches for days and even share a sandwich with someone else.

Our God is gracious. He gives us what we don't deserve. He gives us what we have not earned. Our God is generous. He provides us all we need. He provides us more than we need. He does that with all our possessions. He does this all the time. These truths can help us push sinful desires from our minds. We will be far better at avoiding the sinful actions that result from sinful desires.

7. We are already _____ because we have been given heaven as our home.

8. The God who feeds _____ and clothes _____ also takes care of our daily needs.

9. It is important for us to _____ what God provides us.

10. We will want to _____ what God gives us in the best way.

11. Whatever God provides will _____ us rather than disappoint us.

(Check your answers on page 40)

Review of Chapter Three

God is the one who takes the best care of us. That's the truth. We don't have to listen to the devil's lies or follow his dangerous advice. God proved his great love for us by the sacrifice of his Son in order to save us. God shows his generous love by taking care of our daily needs. He is the one who provides us with food, shelter, friends, a job, and everything we need.

Paul told the young Pastor Timothy, "You gain a lot when you live a godly life. But you must be happy with what you have" (1 Timothy 6:6). Without contentment we open the door to the devil. He wants to cause us great loss. He leads us into sins of thought and sins of action such as envy, worry, fraud, and robbery. His real goal is to lead us to give up hope and stop trusting Jesus. He wants us to spend eternity with him in hell.

We know we deserve only God's anger and punishment for our many sins. How thrilling to know of his forgiveness in Christ. What a surprise when he blesses us on earth. What fun to use what he provides us to thank him! How heart-warming to use what he provides us to be a blessing to others around us!

Test on Chapter Three

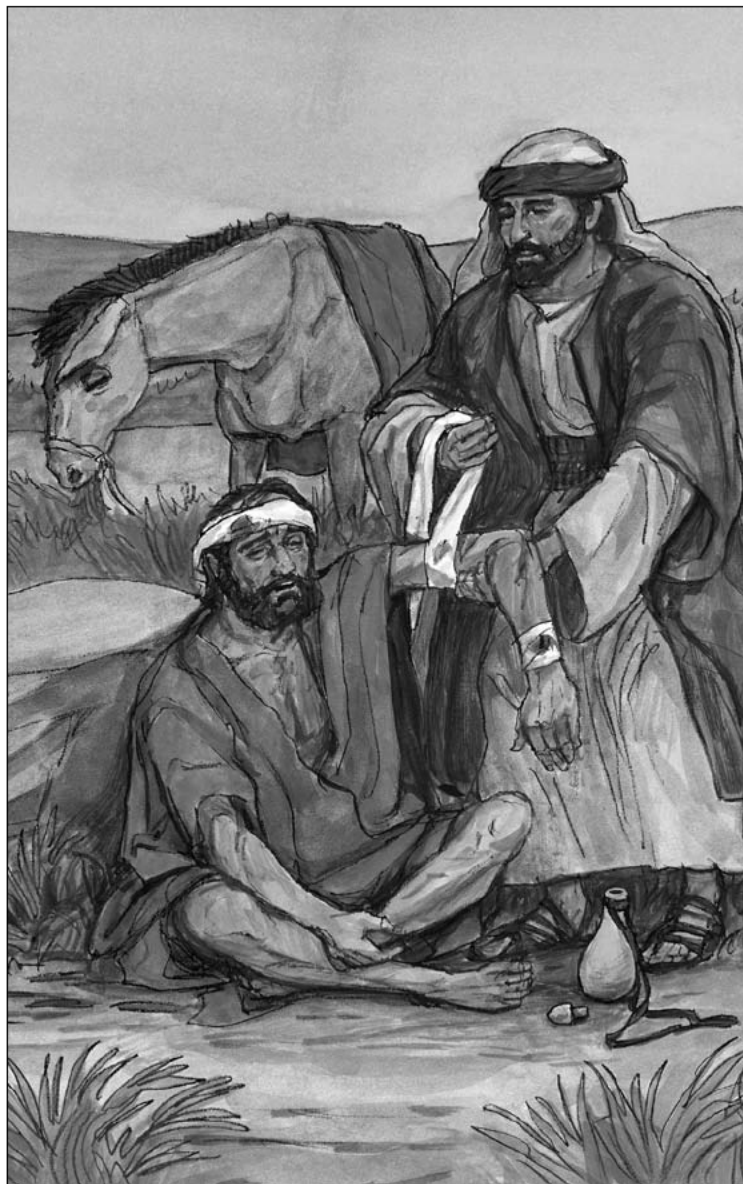
1. _____ stuff leaves us open to devilish attacks.
2. People get into all kinds of trouble when they think they need to take care of _____.
3. Wanting more than God provides us is _____.
4. Devilish desires lead us to sins of _____ and _____.
5. It is better to get _____ sinning rather than lose heaven.
6. Sometimes we have to give up being with a person who can no longer _____ us.
7. We won't sinfully try to get _____ when we realize that we already are.

Answers to the questions in Chapter Three:

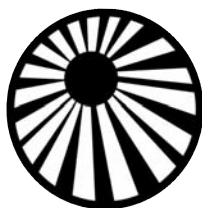
1. Devil, God; 2. danger; 3. cheat; 4. not; 5. peace, joy; 6. caught; 7. rich; 8. birds, flowers; 9. remember; 10. use; 11. surprise.

8. God, who gave us his Son, will provide us
everything that we .
9. We will try to be good with all
God provides us.

(Check your answers on page 57)



The good Samaritan helps the man who was hurt.



Chapter Four

Contentment makes us useful

If you had everything you ever wanted and more, what would you do with it? It's not unusual to hear the answer, "Whatever I want!" We might answer that way because the thought of having everything we want seems like a joke. Or this answer might show how quickly we forget where everything comes from. We can quickly forget that God has a purpose for what he provides. A man was overheard proclaiming, "If I won a million dollars I would give a thousand dollars to church!" In other words, he would keep nine hundred ninety-nine thousand all to himself. May the Holy Spirit prompt a far more spiritual response in us!

Paul makes this clear as he writes . . .

God is able to shower all kinds of blessings on you. In all things and at all times you will have everything you need. You will do more and more good works (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Not only can God provide all that we need, he does provide it. He actually provides for us so that we can be about HIS business. God asks us to pay taxes so that all the financial needs of our government workers are met. This allows them to give their full time to governing. God fills all our needs, financial and beyond, so we can give our full time to doing good works. In God's kingdom we are his workers. He provides for us so that we can help others.

"But wait a minute, I don't have _____ !" The contented mind doesn't go that direction. A Christian does not complain about what he does not have. Rather he celebrates what he does have. He is thrilled by what God has given and still gives to him. And by sharing that, he makes a difference. Here's an excellent example. Paul reminded his friends in Corinth that God is a "Father who gives tender love. All comfort comes from him. He comforts us in all our troubles. Now we can comfort

others when they are in trouble. We ourselves have received comfort from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3,4). We can admit that we have more comfort from our God than we could ever need for ourselves. How eager we are, then, to be a comfort to those around us. We can do that whenever we see someone hurting. It doesn’t matter who that might be. People who have comfort to spare are truly useful in this sad world.

What might that look like? People who have received an overflowing amount of comfort make a point of finding and comforting sad people. They ask them if everything is OK. They ask them if they can be of any help. They offer them time. They listen to them. They put an arm around them. They give them a hug when invited. They introduce them to others. They make a special point of introducing them to Jesus. They share his promises with them. They even memorize Jesus’ promises. This is a useful one. “Call out to me when trouble comes. I will save you. And you will honor me” (Psalm 50:15).

1. God always provides us what we need.
2. Those who have what they need can be busy with others.

3. Instead of complaining about what we don't have, Christians rejoice in what they have.
4. Every Christian is provided more than they need for themselves.

(Check your answers on page 50)

The Bible tells us all Christians have an overflowing supply of comfort. The Bible also reveals that some Christians have more of one kind of ability while other Christians have more of another. Every Christian is rich and therefore useful. I may be especially rich in one way while you are especially rich in another. Our ministries, our usefulness to others, can look different, but be equally valuable. God wants us, Christian brothers and sisters, to help each other discover what we have in abundance. He wants us to work together to fulfill the needs of those all around us. So Paul explains, "There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given by the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve. But they all come from the same Lord. There are different ways to work. But the same God makes it possible for all of us to have all those different things. The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all" (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

“Wow, I wish I could do what she does! If only I could be good at that!” The contented mind wars against such thinking. Christians are content knowing God has made them, not just good, but excellent at something. By God’s grace there is something each of us can do well that is useful. We can use this to help others. Will this talent get our names up in lights? Will it pull down a huge salary for us? It might. It might not. Remember, we don’t do what we do to get rich. We don’t want to forget or deny that we are already rich. We have been blessed beyond imagination by a heavenly Father today, tomorrow, and forever. We use our talents to enrich others. Each talent used faithfully will do exactly that. In an orchestra you see the director, the musicians, and the page turners. Which is more valuable? All of them are vital, give God glory, and bless others as they use their talent faithfully. A Christian can be content as a page turner in God’s kingdom. Such a Christian keeps looking for more pages to turn.

We can make faithful use of our talents no matter what position we have in life. Christians can be content, then, no matter what role the Lord provides them. “Each of you should stay as you were when God chose you. Were you a slave when God chose you? Don’t let it trouble you. But

if you can get your master to set you free, do it" (1 Corinthians 7:20-21). This can be a difficult truth to follow. Our society tends to look down on servants. God does not. God sent his only Son into our world not to be served, but to serve. He gave his life as a ransom for all. Servants are as much a part of his family by grace as anyone else. They are as useful in his kingdom as anyone else.

While society might look down on those in jail or prison, God does not. Living a useful life doesn't have to wait until a person's position in life improves. Christians are content to enjoy God's grace and use their God-given talents wherever they are. Joseph, son of Jacob in the Old Testament, is an excellent example of this truth. As a slave, he blessed Potiphar's household. As an inmate, he blessed the jail. As a ruler, he blessed his country and his family. He demonstrated contentment wherever he was in whatever he was doing.

It is important to find your God-given talent or talents. This will help you be content with who you are. You won't be so tempted to compare yourself with others. Our talent is often more visible to others around us than it is to us. Listen to others and respect them when they say, "Hey, you are

really good at that.” Consider it a cue from God when someone says, “That was really helpful. Thank you.” Be confident that your gift makes you useful in God’s kingdom. It doesn’t matter where you are or what you are doing in this life. Don’t be surprised if your gift is simply being of service. Use your gift to God’s glory and to the blessing of those all around you right now.

5. Our usefulness to others will look different but is equally .
6. We don’t need to use our talents to get because we already are.
7. Christians are content knowing God has made them at something.
8. We use our talents to others.
9. Our talents are useful no matter what we have in life.
10. We can even be content as .

(Check your answers on page 50)

Review of Chapter Four

The one true God doesn't only shower his faith-filled children with material needs or eternal riches. He also gives them their abilities. He even blesses each of us with a talent that makes us especially useful in his kingdom. When we discover what that talent is, we can be truly content to use it without envying the talents of others.

We will want to help our Christian brothers and sisters to find their God-given talent or talents. We can value their abilities as much as we value our own. God intends us all to work together like one body to accomplish his work on earth. Some of us might serve like the arms on a body. Some of us might serve like the eyes. Some of us might serve like the little toes. We are all equally valuable to our God and his Church.

These abilities from God are useful no matter what profession we might have. Our God-given talent makes us useful even if we are in no profession at all. We don't have to wait to receive a degree. We don't need a license. We don't have to be a certain

Answers to the questions in Chapter Four:

1. need; 2. helping; 3. do; 4. comfort; 5. valuable; 6. rich;
7. good (excellent); 8. enrich; 9. position; 10. servants.

age in order to be useful in God's kingdom. That means we can begin using our talents wherever we are with whoever surrounds us right this very moment. We don't have to stop. How wonderful it is to be useful!

Test on Chapter Four

1. God fills all our needs so we can focus entirely on doing _____.
2. Rather than focusing on what we don't have, the Christian focuses on what he _____.
3. It appears every one in the Christian Church has an overflowing amount of _____ with which we can _____ others.
4. Our usefulness in God's kingdom often looks _____ but is equally _____.
5. Jesus wants us to help each other _____ our God-given talent.

6. Each of us has a talent that is _____ for
doing God's work.
7. Christians use their talents to
others.
8. We can be useful no matter what our
in life.

(Check your answers on page 57)



Word List

(A list of words you may not know or understand)

Ability—able to do something

Accomplish—finish, do

Apostle—someone sent by Jesus to tell others about
him

Ascended—went up to heaven

Blessings—good things that God gives to make us
happy

Bliss—happiness

Coffers—boxes or chests that held treasure

Commandments—what God demanded, what he told
his people to do and not to do

Content—happy, pleased

Degree—diploma after finishing a higher level of
education

Demonstrated—showed

Devil—evil angel who disobeyed God

Devilish—of the devil, something that makes the devil
happy

Director—the person who leads the orchestra

Encouraging—cheering, giving hope

Envy—jealousy, greed

Eternal—forever, does not die

Financial—related to money

Fraud—to cheat someone by lying

Frightened—scared

Generously—gives very much

Get caught—become trapped, found out

Grace—undeserved love

Heart-warming—making one feel good

Heaven—place where believers go after they die

Hell—where God punishes forever those who did not
believe in Jesus Christ

Horrors—terrors, fears

Illegal—against the law

Imagine—see, picture

Inmate—someone forced to be in jail, a prisoner

Jamaican—from the Island of Jamaica, in the ocean
southeast of the United States

Judgment Day—last day of the world when God will
judge all people

King Solomon—King of Israel who lived about 1000
years before Jesus was born

License—paper that says someone is trained to do a certain activity

Longings—wishes

Material—earthly, things

Matters—is important, counts

Ministries—ways to serve others

Musicians—people who play instruments

Orchestra—group of people who play musical instruments

Page turners—people who help musicians follow the music written on sheets of paper

Pastor—someone who leads a group of believers (a congregation)

Possessions—things people own

Profession—job that requires special training

Purchased—bought, paid for

Ransom—payment

Recorded—written

Satisfied—fulfilled

Secret—hidden

Shipwreck—ship (boat) was broken by a storm and sank

Sin—disobey God

Society—people in a certain country or region

Standing—position, status

Stuff--things

Stumble—trip, become upset

Talents—gifts, abilities

Thorn—barb, point on a weed that hurts if one touches it. Paul's sickness or problem seemed like a thorn

Treasure—gold, silver or precious jewels

Valuable—treasured, worth much

Varies—changes

Wavers—becomes weak

Wealth—riches

Welcomed them—happy to receive them

Worry—be afraid

Worrywart—someone who worries often, who makes other people unhappy by nagging or complaining

Wrecked—ruined, broken



Answers to Chapter Tests

Chapter One: (pages 14-15)

1. satisfied; 2. contentment; 3. Jesus; 4. standing; 5. OK;
6. loved; 7. with; 8. changes; 9. OK; 10. Jesus.

Chapter Two: (page 28)

1. blood; 2. garbage; 3. Jesus; 4. trouble; 5. need;
6. death; 7. wind; 8. life.

Chapter Three: (pages 40-41)

1. Wanting; 2. themselves; 3. sin; 4. words, actions;
5. caught; 6. trust; 7. rich; 8. need; 9. managers.

Chapter Four: (pages 51-52)

1. His business; 2. does have; 3. comfort, comfort;
4. different, valuable; 5. find; 6. useful; 7. enrich;
8. position.



Final Test

Congratulations! You have completed your study of *Enough is Enough*. Go back through the book and review the questions from each chapter. Also review any mistakes you made in the chapter tests. Then you may take the Final Test.

Complete the Final Test without looking at the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address on the back cover of the book. Someone will check it for you. You may also ask for more Bible study books.



Enough is Enough
Final Test

Complete the following:

1. Contentment is a gift from .
2. Contentment really .
3. Contentment keeps us out of .
4. Contentment makes us .
5. To be content means being .
6. The most valuable item God provided us is Jesus' .
7. All we have comes from .
8. If we don't have something it's because of God's .
9. Even our troubles are under the control of .
10. Having stuff makes people want stuff.

11. Close, loving ties with people are also a gift
and not a .
12. Jesus provides us with all we .
13. We want to what God provides us.
14. We want to what Jesus provides us
to his glory.
15. We want to be good of all
Jesus provides us.
16. Christians are content to know God has made
them at something.
17. While our usefulness to others can look
different it is equally .
18. We can be content with we have
and we are.

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