

4-12-26 Message Contentment

Tue, Apr 14, 2026 1:23PM 39:34

You guys remembering them and praying for them last week. So we have a gosh, I just can't believe the time, how it just flies. I mean, this is an important week for those who do taxes. Most of you who were owed money have already done yours, I'm sure, but, but I think about that, but it's always like, when that hits it's like the weather feels like we've kind of turned the corner. We still have had these bouts of, like, chilly and then and then hot, but it feels like, you know, we're on the verge of kind of turning that corner right. And so with that means a lot of lawn mowing and allergies and things like that. But also means warm weather. And, you know, I look forward to this time of year, but, but I'm like, I was looking at the calendar, and as I was praying through what we do next, I'm like, man, we got three Sundays, and then we're going to be into May, and we're going to be in a Mother's Day and then Father's Day, and it's just this cycle, right? Tomorrow will be the one year anniversary of the vote. It was April 13 last year, and yeah, half of you clapped. I should have instructed the ushers to pass out Kleenexes for those who didn't, but that's hard to believe it has already been a year, right? And it's just have a lot of time to reflect. And so I want to take a few weeks something that I think is good for us to go through from time to time. And it's this idea of kind of looking at where we're at today, and we got to balance that whole from we want more to being content. And being content does not mean being apathetic. So we've got a few weeks here where I want to address this. And the best way I know how I know when you go online today, if you're looking at Amazon or different websites or YouTube, things that are out there, podcasts. There are so many people that want to talk about the idea of contentment. There's there's books, and there's there's quotes, and there's everything out there. So it is on the top of minds, and it preaches pretty well, right? It becomes really instructional, but it's really hard to execute. I think we could walk around and and we could say that each and every person who would say, I believe it is good to be content, especially as a believer that we should be content in this life, you know, when we're talking about certain things, but it's very hard to execute. I remember my dad used to say, and I'm sure I know it wasn't original with him, but since he was the original to me, it becomes original. But he used to say, I used to complain about having no shoes, until I met a man with no feet. Oh, yeah, you all knew my dad. That's great, but, but it is an interesting expression, right? Because we live in a world of comparison. We're trying to keep up with with the Joneses, and sorry if that's your last name, I'm trying to call you help. But we are trying to keep up with trends. It's like every year that there's a new iPhone out, it's all of a sudden the one that was the that did everything for me a year earlier now is obsolete, right? Because I can do different type of pictures now on the new one, same storage and everything. It's still text. I can still get on the internet with it, right? But it is amazing how conditioned we are to not be satisfied. And I think if we're not careful, it can be very destructive. And even some of our, you know, we're right in the throes of college basketball just ended, and now it's a great time of year for the NBA. And then you've got baseball that just kicked off. The Cardinals are actually off to a good start, you know. So I'm happy about that, but, but you listen to these athletes, and you interview them when they're off to a really great start, or when they've done incredible things, and then they'll say something along the lines of, I got to where I'm at because I was never satisfied. I kept working. So there is an element of this where it's like, well, yeah, okay, this is what we don't want to be apathetic. But yeah, we're told in Scripture to be content. So really, what's the context and what should we be content with? What should we be content in? How does it balance in our lives today? And I think I want to start by just, I think this should not be a new point, but I want to make sure I set the foundation with this point, and

that is, the flesh is never satisfied, right? I mean, I think that we understand that, even as believers, if you've, if you're here today, and you've placed your faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, where you've acknowledged that the shed blood of Jesus Christ, that that sinless blood, washed away your sins three days later he rose from the grave, you've, you've placed your faith in that alone, you've received that gift. Flesh, right? And so you're at now a child of God and the Holy Spirit's living inside of you, but you still have the flesh that you're lugging around, right? And some of them might say, well, it's the the old man, and it's, you know, whether you want to say it's the sin nature, you say the sin nature doesn't exist, okay? It's the old man, it's the flesh. But there's something still there that's keeping us from being glorified, right? And Paul would describe this in Romans chapter seven as sin, right? And he also describes in Galatians five as the flesh, right? He describes it in Ephesians four as the old man. So it's that peace that's still there. And I just want to look at a couple of things here to understand why it is such a challenge to be content in this life. And let's start with proverbs 27:20, it says Hell and destruction are never full, so the eyes of man are never satisfied. The question does become like, how much is enough? Is it a million dollars. Enough is \$2 million enough is a billion dollars. Enough is a new car? Enough? Is it two new cars? Enough, three new cars? Enough? Is it a house in the Hamptons? I know we're not close to that, but anyway, might be somebody here is a house in Fishers, a house in Geist or a house here? Is it a lake house. How much is enough? Is it 150 pairs of shoes, or 10 pairs of shoes? How much is enough? It's interesting that we struggle with that, because our flesh is never satisfied. First John, chapter two, verses, 15 through 17. Kind of tells us the blueprint for the world system that we live in, it says, Love not the world. Near the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, and it's not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof. But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. And you can look through any dispensation in the Bible, any section of Scripture, and you see this trend right? Adam and Eve were without sin. Was not their environment enough, but the serpent said, but there could be more. In fact, you can be like God. Before that ever was spoken to them, they had such peace. They had enough, until somebody said, there may be more that you don't have. And then we can look at the wilderness right? As far as here they come out of Egypt, and they start complaining about manna, right? They start saying, Oh, well, maybe we should just go back under this, these harsh conditions in Egypt, rather than just die out here. They begin complaining they're not content with what God is providing, whether we have quail or whether we have water at some point, right, or whether it's manna, the constant never satisfied to even point where they would put themselves back under bondage in order to satisfy their flesh. Galatians one four says who gave Himself for our sins that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father, this thing that we're looking to satisfy us, we had to be delivered from this world and this world system. It will never satisfy you. It will never quench your thirst. It won't you will always be left wanting for more. If you're waiting on the world to give you everything, it will let you down. It cannot satisfy you or your flesh. Your flesh, the more you feed it, the more it wants to feast. It it doesn't ever become satisfied. I love in Galatians 5:16, through 17, it says this. I say, then walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. This is an acknowledgement that both are present at the same time. In a believer, the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. These are contrary the one to the other, so that you cannot do the things that you would. And we've all heard like the antidote of if there's these two dogs, right, and you've and they say they're born of the same litter, and you've got one that you're just training, you're feeding, and you're you're taking them out on hunts, and the other one you keep locked up in a cage, and you don't feed, and it's all malnutrition, and its bones are rickety, and it, I mean, the skin looks like it's just falling off of the skeleton, and then you unleash them in a battle to the death. Which one wins? You know, it's the one that's been fed, it's the it's the one that's been exercised. Right? And it describes us a lot. I mean, I think the majority of people on Sunday mornings, I'm not calling out any individual names or specifically Grace point, but, but this, this meeting on a Sunday for a lot of people, is the only nourishment that they give the spirit out of the 168 hours of the week. And

then they wonder why during the week they keep falling into the same temptation over and over and over again, because the flesh is getting fed. From the moment you hit snooze on the alarm clock, the flesh says, I get a little bit more. 15 minutes, right? Eight minutes here, eight minutes there, right? We just do not deny ourselves. We don't believe in self denial, really at all today, and so we live lives controlled by the flesh, and sprinkle a little bit of Jesus on a Sunday, maybe a Wednesday also. And we walk in defeated lives, and we're never satisfied. The flesh is feasting, and we wonder why we're never satisfied. The flesh is so loud in our lives. And then we start dealing with temptation under those scenarios. And next thing you know, the spouse is no longer content with their spouse, the one that they committed to, for better or worse, the one that they are with, one that the one that they are, one flesh with their flesh was so loud now all of a sudden, it's I wish they looked like this, or I wished it was this person. I wish they were nicer, right? And so you go down that path, and all of a sudden you're no longer content in your marriage, you're no longer content with financial decisions that you're making, and you'll make rash decisions because other people have something that you want. Maybe it's a gambling addiction. It's sports gambling addiction that seems to be on the rise today. It's a love of money that's pulling you away from who you are in Christ. It's a lack of loyalty as an employee. You're not content in your jobs, and it's destroying your testimony. And you go from one job to the other, you are not content. Now, the word content used primarily verb, I think, in the Bible when you see it, but there is one place where it's actually used as an adjective. And it's that comes from the Greek word atarcase. And it's basically gives this idea of self, complacent, contented, or content. And when you look at the blue Letter Bible, and it kind of gives the usage for how the words used. It says, sufficient for oneself, strong enough of possessing enough, no need of aid or support, kind of talking about what this word content means. It also gives the idea of independent of external circumstances. What it's an interesting definition. It gives the idea also of being contented with one's lot, with one's means, though the slenderest in the Webster's 1828, dictionary, it says the adjective form literally held contained within limits. Hence quiet, not disturbed, having a mind at peace, easy, satisfied, so as not to repine object or oppose. I love, I love that part of the definition. It's like whatever is inside this container that is contained within, like, let's say, this two liter bottle. It's like it's enough. It's filled with whatever it is that is enough to leave you satisfied. Even the Stoics believed in self sufficiency. When you start looking back historically, there was always an idea of knowing that we have to somehow be okay with who we are and what we have. It's always been deemed dangerous when we just give ourselves whatever we want. So how do we balance that in society today, or as the body of Christ, how do we combat maybe what the world is communicating to us, the imaging that's been sent to us through social media, through programming, right through everything that we see is going to drive, drive kind of an indoctrination one way. How do we understand what the Word of God is, and how can we apply this to our lives, so that we can be the husbands we need to be, so that so that we can be the spouses we need to be, so so that we can be the grandparents we need to be the employees, we need to be the members of the Body of Christ that we need to be not so easily distracted by things that appeal to the flesh. In Philippians chapter four, verses 11 and 12, Paul's going to address this very thing. And couple things to know leading up to this passage is he just gets through telling the Philippians that. That your care for me has flourished again, right? There. They're giving to him. Their sacrificial giving to him has happened again. And he said previously, there were times where you didn't have opportunity to do this, but, but it has come to where you did have opportunity to get and it has flourished again, right? And really a lot of Philippians is a big thank you note for their sacrificial giving. But in verse 11, after talking about this gift, he says, not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned in whatsoever state I am there with to be content. In verse 12, he says, I know how to be a base, and I know how to abound everywhere and in all things, I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. Now we'll wait on verse 13, which I think might be the most misused verse in Scripture. And I'm a sports fan, so I know how this verse is used most times. It's interesting though he says about want in Mark 1244, talking about the widow giving of her two mites. It says, For all they did cast in of their abundance, but she of her want, meaning her lack, right? Says that of her want, she

did cast in all that she had, even all her living. See, Paul was saying, I know what it's like to be in want, and I think that all of us have probably been there at one time or another. I mean, I was married six months. I remember Stan gave me a call, and I was at the mortgage company and he said, I need you to get home. Your house is on fire. And I thought, Man, what a terrible joke. What kind of father in law calls their son in law at work and says, Your house is on fire. And he goes, I'm not joking. You need to get home. And I remember just, I think I was breaking the speed of light. I mean, I was going, I was getting down to Franklin as quick as I could. And I think when I was about two blocks away, I could see the smoke in the air. And as I got closer, fire trucks and the whole back half of our house. I mean, I mean, we're Rachel's 19. At the time, just turned 19. We are we are babes. We are young kids, and everything that we had was now up in smoke. We didn't have any kids then so, but we did have a dog, and we lost her and in that fire, but I remember just me, who's always been kind of a collector. I still especially just things I like to collect, but the same token, I know, if it's all gone tomorrow means nothing. But I remember seeing everything gone away, all the wedding gifts, everything just gone in the blink of an eye. And you're like, What did all that really mean? I had a couple choices at that point. It's like, is my life over now, no, life wasn't over that point. I remember that the daily journal was there, and they, they wanted to interview me, and they put some in the paper and and at that point, I was still kind of young in my faith, and I, I quoted Romans 8:28 I, I didn't even probably know it was Romans 8:28 I just said, Hey, you know, all things work together for good, to those who love God, to them that are called according to the purpose, His purpose. I mean, I didn't even, I didn't even use it really contextually very, very well, but it was like there was something inside of me that said, You know what, God, you're in control. It's interesting because it was that moment, not that I was perfect from there on out, very far from it, but, but that's what sent me on a journey to go to Bible college, because I sat there and I'm like, This is how quick you can lose it all, all the earthly stuff. So it wasn't really matter. So I was like, I mean, I wasn't, I just wanted to be. I was, I don't even think I was leading or teaching at that point, once I started, but I was like, I just felt my heart that I wanted to start taking classes at Bible college, and so, so I did as a result of that. But, but it was interesting to know that when you put your emphasis on all that you can collect in this world, just know how quickly it goes away. But that's the lie of Satan, isn't it? That's the lie of the world system, this will make you happier, or you won't be happy unless you have this. And I think that if we're not careful, we're going to really wound ourselves spiritually and our ability to tell others about Him. Now, Paul clearly didn't advocate just to sit back and wait on others and take care of you. I mean, that is farthest thing from the truth. In fact, 18:3 says, because he was of the same craft, he abode with them and wrought for by their occupation. They were tent makers. Second Thessalonians. 3:10, even says, for even when we were with you, this, we commanded you that if any would not work. Neither should he eat. See, Paul wasn't begging, but he was acknowledging the gift that the Philippians gave to him. There's this quote that I read in a commentary a while back that says there is a discipline of self whereby one does not need more than one has. And I think when we start looking from a spiritual sense, because there are people who aren't believers, who can be content in this life and hold on to rigid rules, but from a believer, when we think about the idea of the two liter bottle, is Christ enough that we don't need anything else. There's no room in the container for anything else, because Christ is enough. I really think, from a spiritual standpoint, this is where Paul is coming from. Now it's interesting. He says, I learned it gave the idea of we don't naturally come into this life saying I'm content. And see Paul said I had to learn how to be this. He says, I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith, to be content. I thought about this, I was like, how do we learn? How do we learn in this life? And I I know sometimes it's from our own personal experience. Like I remember when Rachel and I were engaged, and I had an 89 Chevy Beretta. Anybody know what that is in here a few I know they don't make them anymore, but this thing was, it was cherry red, and it was paid off. Wasn't the greatest car, but it was paid off, right? And so. But I remember once we started dating, she went to center grove. I was like, when I go into that parking lot, I feel a little embarrassed and everything. And so I made the wise, super wise decision to lease a brand new Chevy Blazer. I'm like, I got the girl. I need the car now, and everything. And so I leased this car. And

man, it was so pretty and so, so excited. But you know what, when you start making that payment each month versus not making the payment previously, I was like, I just had to keep up with everybody. I just had to have the new car, right? But I couldn't afford it. That's why you lease it. Like, I can get the new car for a lot less, but I was young, and what I didn't realize was these miles start racking up. Three years later, I go to turn in the pretty blazer, because they had sold me on the whole idea just keep leasing a new car. You can keep having a new car every three years. I go and I turn the lease in, and they're like, you're 36,000 miles over on your lease, and whatever the percentage was, somehow it was \$3,000 I now have, I'm turning the car in, and I owe \$3,000 because of that decision, because I had to have the new car that rolled over into three cars down the road that negative equity just kept rolling over and rolling over. So people, they asked me today, and I pull into their driveway, and I've tried my car in there, and I'm like, I learned something Paul says in here, that I learned to be content, right? I have not had a car payment, and forever, I'm not going to, I'm not going to get any eyes gazing upon me at the suds on a Saturday night when all the cars are out there and they're just gazing at the engines and man, it's an awesome hot rod that's not going to be me, but I don't have a car payment. I learned, I learned that I didn't want to be there again. And that's not slam in. Anybody in here who has nice cars or has done that, but I had to learn from my own mistake. That's one of the ways we learn from our own experiences. Also we learn from Scripture. We're told in second, Timothy, 3:16, and 17, that, guess what? The Word of God, it can teach us. Yeah, it can all. Scripture is given by inspiration of God. It's profitable for doctrine, reproof, for correction and instruction and righteousness. Why that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly, furnished unto all good works? Another way that we learn is by teachers. Romans, 16:17, tells a little bit. I think this needs to be a lot more important in churches than it is. It's amazing. We'll make decisions on how the church government is set up, or or what the worship is like there, or how great the children's ministry is, but, but when you read Romans, 16:17, it's like, shouldn't this be the thing that's most important? And this would come from sound teaching, right? But it says, Romans, 16:17, I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned and avoid them. Man, what would it look like? If the most important thing in the decision making process of the Body of Christ, or specifically, the entity that you want to worship in, right for edification purposes, was doctrine. It seems like Paul, even though he sets up the church government, First Timothy, second, Timothy and Titus. You never really see in Romans two Philemon, where he's like correcting, well, there wasn't enough elders, or there wasn't this. He's not really correcting the government and all these books, but what he will correct is, and what he will talk about is the doctrine. And I think it's important we understand that we are taught doctrine, right? It's one of the ways we can be content spiritually when we are following teachers who are teaching the right doctrine. Ephesians 4:20 says, You have not so learned Christ. Remember, Paul says that I had to learn in whatsoever state I am with to be content. And then there's the example of others, not only your own experiences, but just a couple verses earlier, Paul says, those things which you have both learned and received and heard and seen in me do in the God of peace shall be with you. Part of the example from others is those who have lived life longer than you, who have seen things you haven't quite seen yet, who have had to overcome things that you've not overcome yet, who've had to walk close to the Lord even amidst terrible tragedy that you young people have not faced yet. And you have a treasure of people that you can learn from how they overcame or what lessons they learned through the process. So I love Titus, two, three and five. It says the aged woman likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. It's interesting in these pastoral epistles, Paul's saying that those who have learned how to do these things, let them teach those who have not experienced it yet. Part of learning to be content is talking to somebody outside your generation who had to grow up through the Great Depression as a believer, or those who had to have seven people in one bedroom houses in the 50s, it's like today. It's like, man, kids are crazy if they don't have their own bedroom. It's just a different world today. And we can learn from those who stayed the course through those things. You can learn from those who have been widowed yet they're

right here in church, you can learn from those who have had past mistakes yet they didn't leave. They kept going. They've grown through the difficulties. We can learn from others. That's why a multi generational church is so important. It is the body of Christ. It's not about your church needs to be young, or your church is too old. You know? It's about multi generations, right? And that's scriptural, because we have people all ages in the body of Christ, and they all bring something different to the table. So the next part of this, he says, I know how to be abased and I know how to abound. He says, I've been in both sides of the spectrum, and we definitely hear a lot in his writings, Romans through Philemon, about the abased part, the low part, the part of want, right second. Corinthians, 11:23, through 30. Are they ministers of Christ? I speak as a fool. I am more in labors and more abundant in stripes above measure. In prisons, more frequent and deaths oft of the Jews, five times received thy 40 stripes, save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Thrice I suffered shipwreck and night and day. I've been in the deep, in journeyings, often in perils of waters and perils of robbers and perils of mine own countrymen, and perils by the heathen, and perils in the city and perils in the wilderness. Think you get the point. Paul knew what it was like to be in harm's way. He knew what it was like to be in need. He knew what it was like to suffer persecution. He says, I've been there. He's telling the Philippians, I know what it's like to be abased and be at the lowest place possible, but I also know what it's like to abound. And you kind of get this idea going back from his Pharisee days, because even in Acts 24 just from his testimony, right, that in verse 24 through 26 there's something interesting that said here that leads you to believe that Paul came from wealth. And it says he hoped also that money would have been given him of Paul, that he might lose him. Wherefore, he sent for him the oftener and communed with him. Is this idea of, did you pay for your citizenship? Did you come from wealth? So I think Paul. Says, I know what it's like to abound. And you get the idea also from Philippians three, those first few verses, when, when his past life, he knew what it was like to have power, success and wealth, but he also knew what it's like to have all of it stripped away. But he says, in any situation, in verse 13, I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me. Now think about the context. What are the All things being content in any situation? I have learned that it's Christ's strength that will allow me to be content when I don't have anything. It's Christ's strength that will help me when I have too much to be able to do the right things with that. It's Christ's strength, and not his own. Second Corinthians, 12, seven through nine, is what this reminds me of, when he's saying he learned things. And Philippians is written later in his life. I think that this is one of the places he learned, and it's the thorn in the flesh. And he says, lest I should be exalted above measure, through the abundance of the revelations there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing, the thorn in the flesh, I besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee. He says, For my strength is made perfect in weakness. So Paul says, Most gladly, therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me? Yeah, of course. Paul says, I learned, you know, here, even in this situation, Paul says, there's a purpose in your suffering. He says, I've learned some things. I've learned that God's grace is sufficient. Now let's go back to the two liter bottle. This is like Paul basically saying, I've learned that this two liter bottle is full with Christ's grace, and it's enough. It's sufficient. There's not room for me to need anything else. When we understand what we have in grace, it is sufficient in any situation that we're in. It is sufficient when you've lost a loved one. It is sufficient when you've gone through something difficult in your marriage. God's grace is sufficient if you will pull into it. And he says, My strength is made perfect in your weakness. What's not talked about in there is your strength, your willpower, your ability to positively think out of a difficult situation. He says, My strength is perfect in your weakness. That really talks about contentment. I can be content because it is His grace that is sufficient. It's his strength that's perfect in my weakness. It's interesting talk about this inner part as we wrap up here, he says in Ephesians 3:16 that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might of His Spirit in the inner man, we see so much mentioned about his strength and where his strength is focused. And it's not our outer man. It is the inner man. Ephesians, 6:10, says, Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. You will not be content

in this life as a believer. If you are doing it in your own strength, you cannot. The flesh will win, and you will constantly think you need more, and you won't be satisfied ever. But we have enough in Christ to be satisfied. And I think it's more of an American thing. I really do. There's other countries as well. But, I mean, if you read what is going on in other places, we have Cadillac problems. I mean, they're not thinking about a blessed life in Nigeria right now, if you become a convert to Christ, but yet they'll find all sufficiency in Christ and His strength we struggle with ever being satisfied here. And I think it's the American culture really do Second Corinthians, 4:16, through 18. I'll wrap up with these two verses. Talk about things Paul learned. He says, For which cause we faint not but through our though, our outward man perish, the inward man is renewed day by day, For our light affliction was which is but for a moment worketh for us a far exceeding and eternal weight of glory while we look at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. Paul says, quit focusing on the temporal. Why do we not invest in the eternal? It's why we're not content. All we can see is what is right. In front of us, right? We think that the next trip is going to satisfy us. And I'm saying anything wrong with that creature memories? Absolutely. I'm not saying don't do these things, but I'm saying, when it becomes a god or an idol to you're pulling you away from Christ. When you get to the point where that's the only thing they'll satisfy me, that's the only thing that I'm thinking about. That's when things become a problem, because you'll do whatever you can to get that thing. And there's coming a time where there's going to be more persecution in this country, and you're going to need to be reminded that you still have everything that you could possibly ever want or need in Christ, even if everything else gets stripped from you on this earth. And then lastly, Romans, 8:18, he says, I reckon that the sufferings of this present time. Listen what he says here. They're not worthy to be compared with what the glory which shall be revealed in us. Well, When's that going to happen? That's in the heavenlies. Our citizenship is in heaven. We're seated on the right hand of God, where all spiritual blessings are. But Satan wants us to focus on the here and now and let it consume us and we forget, really, where our identity is at and what we have in Christ. So what about you today? Do you struggle with contentment? I mean, are you on the verge of blowing up everything around you because you cannot be satisfied. Are there marriages here that are hanging on by a thread? There's loose conversations with Secretaries and all sorts of things going on at your work because you're not content. You're about to blow it all up. There's still time. Can we be content with the things that we have? Do we need to be like our country, who, I don't know how many trillions of dollars we are in debt right now? Do we have to replicate that? Can we make the wise financial decisions now and start being content so that we're not in bondage for the next several generations, right as we pass that on to our kids after we leave. Can we learn to be content with what we have in Christ? I'm going to have everybody stand at this time. We're going to pray, and then we'll sing a song together, but today, if maybe this is the first time that you've been here, or the first time that you've really heard the gospel message that we talked about earlier, I want to encourage you that if you want to talk afterwards, please come forward. We'd love to talk with you, make sure that we point you in the right direction for your next steps. But please know that God loved you so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for your sins, and that He was buried and three days later, rose again. We were separated from God because of our sin. God made a way, God committed his love toward us, and that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, not by grace. I'm sorry, by grace, not through works. We are saved today, not because of us, but because of him. And It's my prayer that everyone leaves here today placing their faith in that alone. Let's pray, Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this day, and thank you for your Word. Lord. I think about what Paul was talking about here, and it's convicting for me. I'm not exempt from this just because I'm a pastor. I long for things I want things, and Lord, there are times when it can be very dangerous to pursue those things, even if it means I don't have money for them, or this would not be good for my family, or this doesn't set the right example. And that's that's hard, Lord, because leadership starts at the head of the home. And may we, as the men in this room, lead our families in this area of contentment. But because if we have you, we have enough now. We have to get to work. We have to provide for our families, absolutely. But if we are walking in the flesh,

we're not going to see those lines. They're going to be blurred, and we're not going to be content. We have to be pouring into the spirit and relying on your strength, relying on your word, in order to have that spiritual contentment that Paul was talking about. It's not about our willpower. It is about you, Lord and your strength. I pray Lord, that you just encourage the believers, both here today, in person and online. Lord help us to be content with what we have in you, and Lord we give you all the honor and praise. Amen.