

“I Have Learned To Be Content”

Philippians 4:11,13 “...For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances....I can do everything though Him who gives me strength.”

“Good or bad, healthy or unhealthy, things going my way or not, whatever my circumstances,” Paul said, “I am content.” Can you say that? My experience is we have learned how to be stressed, depressed, overwhelmed, how to come apart, and how to be discontent. Paul, who had every right to be depressed since he was in prison, said, “I have learned to be content.” The source of his contentment was Jesus Christ. He found that in Jesus he had the strength to handle whatever came his way. Life is difficult. Along the way you get skinned up, beat up, bruised, and sometimes you may feel like you are getting the short end of the stick. But God has given us a lot of good gifts, and one of His best gifts is the gift of choice. You don't always get to choose your circumstances, and some of you are in circumstances you wouldn't have chosen for yourself in a million years. But you do get to choose what your attitude and response is going to be in every circumstance. You can choose to feel sorry for yourself and whine your life away or you can choose joy. You can choose life. My favorite quote is, “Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional.” Misery is a choice that we make. Everybody has handicaps. Some are visible and some are invisible. You can choose to let your handicaps handicap you for life, or you can choose life and joy. Paul said, “I am in prison, but I am content.” He did not choose self-pity. He chose to live for Christ and discovered that in choosing Christ, he chose contentment. I hope you will make that choice today. Choose Christ. In Him is all you need.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

Living In The Rear View Mirror

Philippians 3:13-14 “...But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

One of the most important truths that I have learned through the years is that you cannot live your life out of the rear view mirror. Many would say that the best years of their lives were yesterday when they were younger, thinner, healthier, the kids were home, or where they worked in a job that had meaning and purpose. I bet some of you who are reading this are carrying a ton of baggage from yesterday- hurts, guilt, regrets, and anger that are defining your life today. If you try to drive your car by looking backwards through the rear view mirror, you will wreck. If you live your life looking over your shoulder at the good old days, you will miss the good new days that God has for you. In Isaiah 43:19, God says, “I am about to do a new thing. Can you see it?” Well you won't be able to see the new thing God has for you if you are looking backward. God still has so much to give you, to teach you, to bless you with. We are people of Easter. If you really believe in Easter then you will know the best is always yet to be. Every exit is an entrance for those who belong to Christ. Your future will be more glorious than your past. So stop living your life out of the rear view. Go forward. The best is yet to be. Learn from your past. Don't repeat the mistakes from the past. Rejoice in the good part of your past, but don't live there. God has a beautiful future that is going to be more glorious than your past.

- -Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

Faith In God, Not The Boat

Mark 4:38-40 “³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke Him and said to him, “Teacher, don't you care if we drown?” ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to His disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

When I read this story of the disciples and Jesus in a boat in the middle of a storm, I am always struck by how the disciples are panicking and Jesus is sleeping. That Jesus is sleeping through the storm is not evidence of His not caring. It is evidence of His calm assurance that God's power is greater than the storm. The disciples panicked because their source of security was in the boat, and it was sinking. Jesus had peace because His source of security was found in the Father's love and power. He knew that God's power to save them in the storm was far greater than the storm's power to destroy them. There was a lady in the community who was well-known for her simple faith and great calm in the midst of the many storms that had come in her life. Another woman, who had never met this woman of great faith and who was in the midst of a big emotional storm herself, wanted to find out the source of the other lady's calm and strength. When she met her she said, “So you are the woman with the great faith that I have heard so much about.” “Oh, no!” came the reply. “I am not the woman with the great faith. But I am the woman with a little faith in a great God.” There was a lady who knew a great God whose power to save her was greater than the storm's power to destroy her. God doesn't shield us from the storms of life, but God's power will support us when the storms do come. That would be a good thing to remember today.

Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

James 1:14-15 “¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

There is a house for sale at 546 Munich Street in San Francisco. It has a great location, near two public parks and two minutes from the coast. It is a single family home with two bedrooms and two baths. From the picture of the house in the listing it looks beautiful. If you drive by it looks perfect. While you can see the house in the listing from the street that is all you get to see. According to the listing, the seller will not provide any interior pictures or showings or inspections. It will be sold ‘as is.’ The house is occupied, and according to the listing, the tenants will not move prior to the sale. And once you buy this house without seeing the inside, you bear the responsibility to kick out the tenants. Would you buy a house under those conditions? Probably not. Yet we are tempted to purchase a listing like that every day. Satan, the tempter, has a way of making sin look appealing from the outside, but he doesn't declare all the details about it. Sometimes we buy what sin is selling without being informed of the consequences. Before you give into some temptation that looks good and feels good, make sure you read the fine print.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

WESLEY HALL - APRIL 3, 2016

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS

SERMON SERIES: MESSED UP The Path of God Through Imperfection Study on the Beatitudes

Week 1: Crying & Broken

Week 2: Empty & Weak

Week 3: Guilty & Hurt

Week 4: Down & Dirty

Week 5: Picked On & Put Down



6000 ATLANTA HWY. MONTGOMERY AL 36117
FRAZERUMC.ORG • 334-272-8622

Messed Up The Path to God through Imperfection

Week 1-Crying and Broken
Matthew 5:3-4

Three Nonprinciples of Spiritual Growth

Nonprinciple #1: Spiritual growth is about humbly depending on God.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:3(NIV)

“God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the kingdom of heaven is given to them.” Matthew 5:3 (NLT)

“The Lord God blesses everyone who trusts him and depends on him.” Psalm 146:5 (CEV)

Nonprinciple #2: Spiritual growth is about God’s grace redeeming our messiness.

“God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Matthew 5:4 (NLT)

“For no one can ever be made right in God’s sight by doing what his law commands. For the more we know God’s law, the clearer it becomes that we aren’t obeying it. But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight -- not by obeying the law but by the way promised in the Scriptures long ago. We are made right in God’s sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.” Romans 3:20-22 (NLT)

Nonprinciple #3: Spiritual growth is a lifetime journey toward holiness.

“I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection! But I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.” Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)

Go Deeper:

- Why is it hard to admit to God (and yourself) that you are a mess? How does this hinder us in our walk with Christ?
- Jesus starts off his teaching by painting a picture of the kind of person who is “blessed.” Today we might say “that person is lucky” or “they are living the good life.” Do you find it surprising that Jesus would lead off with those who are “poor” and those who are “mourning” in a list of who is really lucky? Do you think Jesus might have expected to shock his audience a little? Why or why not?
- Based on what you see in advertising, movies and TV, what people put on social media, and just conversations with friends, what would you say our culture values as “the good life”? How does it compare to Jesus’ teaching?
- Jesus promises that the poor in spirit are blessed because “theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” This doesn’t just mean “going to heaven when we die,” it means “the rule of God that comes to earth here and now from heaven.” How would you describe the kingdom of heaven, and why do you think Jesus says it belongs to those who are poor in spirit?
- Read Luke 18:10-14. Jesus says that those who mourn over their wrongs will be encouraged. Thinking about this story of the “sinner” and the “Pharisee,” why do you think only the one who mourned over his sin was capable of receiving the encouragement of God?

— Rev. Brandon Dasinger
Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions
bdasinger@frazer.church

Watch today’s sermon on WFRZ-TV or online
at frazer.church/media.
You may also order a CD of today’s service
at the Connection Point desk.

Ask for Help

James 4:2 “You do not receive because you do not ask.”

Too many Christians are trying to ‘Do this life’ without the Father when God has made it clear that LIFE is too difficult without His help. God will move mountains to help those who have committed their lives to His Son, Jesus. God will change lives and even calm storms for those who have repented of their sins and given their lives into His care. God is waiting for His children to come to Him, to talk to Him, to ask Him to enter their messes. God wants to be asked to help. What is stopping you from coming? Is it pride? Is it sin? Do you wrongly assume He doesn’t care about your problem or that your problem is too big for God? When Christians don’t ask God for help in this life, it is as if we are trying to dig a ditch with our bare hands when bulldozers, backhoes, and the entire Corp of Engineers is standing by and waiting. God wants to help, but He is waiting for us to turn to Him for the answer. He is waiting for us to ask for help.

- Virginia Thompson

Keep It Simple

John 13:34-35 “³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The Ten Commandments teach two basic principles: Live your life with a reverence for God and respect for other people and their property. Here it is as if Jesus adds an eleventh commandment, and says, “Love people.” He doesn’t offer this as a suggestion or a recommendation. It is a command. He didn’t say, “Please try to love others; I prefer you to love others; it would be nice if you would love one another.” No, He said, “I give you a command, Love one another” What He is reminding us is that Christianity is all about loving God and loving people. Keep it simple. Don’t clutter Christianity with a bunch of stuff. Love God and love people. Tradition says that when the disciple John became so old and weak that he could no longer work, he would ask to be carried to the front of the church where he would content himself with the preaching of a five word sermon. Little children, love one another. When someone grew weary of hearing the same sermon every week, they asked him why he was hung up on this one thing, and he said, “Because it is the Lord’s command, and if only this is done, it is enough.” And he was right; it is enough. God commands us to love as He loves us, unconditionally, sacrificially, generously, selflessly, truthfully because this kind of love is what changes beasts into beauties, moves the lost to be found, the hopeless to be filled, the dead to come alive, heals broken hearts, breaks down walls of meanness with humility, and mends what is broken. A new commandment I give, Love one another.” Let’s just love people today.

- Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor