

## God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 19

### Living in Reference to God: The Fear of the Lord Leads to Contentment

#### Warm-Up Questions:

1. What does it mean to be content?
2. In what areas do people typically struggle with contentment?
3. What are some of the things that we, or our culture, believe will bring contentment?
4. Why might two people in the same circumstances have different responses to an opportunity for discontentment?
5. What are some Biblical examples that illustrate the fear of the Lord leading to contentment or the failure to do so?

**Biblical Contentment** is a fruit of the Spirit's work in the life of the Christian as they strive to live in light of the reality of the gospel.

An experience that follows a purposeful turning of our hearts to a satisfaction in the Lord and all He has done, is doing, and will do for us. It involves a grateful acceptance of God's sovereign will, no matter the circumstances. This must begin with the fear of the Lord.

#### Survey of Proverbs:

- The fear of the Lord is better than wealth and improved circumstances (Prov. 11:4; 15:16-17; 17:1; 23:4-5)
- A lack of contentment may lead to sin/compromise (Prov. 16:8; 28:6; 30:7-9)
- Biblical contentment lives with humility and diligence in between clamor for more and complaining that you do not have enough. (Prov. 30:7-9; 11:4; 6:6-11; 24:30-34)
- Contentment in marriage: (Prov. 5; 6:20-35)
- Better is... (15:16-17; 16:8, 19; 17:1; 19:1)

**Read Psalm 73:**

1. What does Asaph confess in vs 1-3?
2. How had God been good to Israel?
3. What did Asaph see that made him envious?
4. How did Asaph feel about trying to understand the prosperity of the wicked?
  - a. In what ways might you be tempted to envy and/or slip into the ways of the wicked?
5. How did Asaph have a change of perspective?
6. What changed in Asaph's thinking?
  - a. What areas of your thinking might need corrected?
7. What does Asaph conclude by the end of the chapter?

**Reflection:**

1. How does your view of God, yourself, and other people affect your ability to be content?
2. How does a fear of the Lord play into your battle for contentment?
3. In what areas of your life are you discontent, and what are you planning to do to change?