

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

The Secret Of Contentment

By Don Hooton

One big reason many are not happy is because they are not content. For many today it is an elusive commodity! (Remember Simple Simon?) Tragically, many believe that contentment will be achieved only when they have what they want. Yet now more than ever, it seems that we have so much but so little contentment.

Paul wrote, "*But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again: though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" Phil 4:10-13 NKJV

The NIV in verse 12 says; "*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation*" The idea expressed at the end of verse eleven and in verse twelve, literally means "I have learned the secret." Paul tells us that he has learned the true secret to life and he wants to share it with them.

So then what Paul teaches us first is that contentment is learned. It is not something that comes naturally. Paul "learn[ed] to be content" (v.11). so then, if contentment is learned, it is not instantaneous but rather the fruit of many years of faithful fellowship and learning to trust the Lord to provide what he needed. In today's drive through-thru culture, we all need to learn that we buy more than we can afford because we want more than we need.

To be continued next week, [Learning Contentment](#).