

## THE SECRET TO CONTENTMENT

Ben Joseph—July 17, 2022

Habakkuk 3:17-19

### 1. WHAT IS CONTENTMENT?

- The state of being satisfied regardless of the circumstances of life
- The Hebrew meaning: “to be pleased”
- The Greek meaning: the idea of a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed; one detached from outward circumstances and had the resources in oneself to meet every situation in life; an internal satisfaction which does not demand changes in external circumstances.

-Paul’s testimony in Philippians 4:11-12

- Contentment is learned
- The source of contentment is Christ’s strength
- “Happiness” has its root in circumstances of life

### 2. WHAT IS A PORTRAIT OF CONTENTMENT?

-Habakkuk 3:17-19

-Habakkuk moved from complaining and claiming for a miracle to contentment at his awareness of the sovereignty of God – “The sovereign LORD is my strength...”

### 3. WHAT IS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD?

- The most used Hebrew word for God is “Yahweh” which translated “LORD” is used over 5,300 times and stress His eternal presence and commitment to His people; it elevates His control and authority over everything that happens.
- Arthur Pink: “He is the Most High, LORD of heaven and earth. Subject to none. Influenced by none and absolutely independent. God does as He pleases, only as He pleases and always as He pleases. None can thwart Him and none can hinder Him.”

- John Piper: “God’s sovereignty is His right and power to do all that He decides to do. Absolutely everything that needs to be done to bring about His purposes, God sees to it that it happens.”

#### 4. WHAT IS THE SECRET TO CONTENTMENT?

##### A. Contentment is a TRUST issue

-Do I know Him enough, believe Him enough to trust Him to navigate my life?

##### B. Contentment is a SURRENDER issue

-Am I willing to surrender my desires for His plans and purposes in my life?

- God’s recipe for contentment is exchanging our weakness for His strength:

-Isaiah 40:30-31 – “wait” on the Lord....”

-Psalms 46:10 – “Be still and know that I am God.....”

-1 Peter 5:7 – “Cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you.”

-1 Peter 4:19 – “Entrust their souls to their faithful Creator....”

#### 5. HOW DOES UNDERSTANDING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD ENRICH OUR LIVES?

- We will learn to define “good” and “bad” from a vertical perspective.
- Enables us to worship Him for who He is rather than what He does
- Understanding the sovereignty of God changes our prayer life

- Saving grace leads to enabling grace – “My grace is sufficient for you...”

-Isaiah 26:3: “He will keep in perfect peace whose mind is fixated on Him.”

-When the sovereign LORD becomes our strength, we function on a high level.