

The Calm of Christ

This Sunday, October 2, I will conclude the "Calm of Christ" series. The subject for Sunday is contentment. In an old cemetery in England, a husband and wife's tombstones respectfully read: "She died for want of things." "He died trying to provide them." The poet insightfully says, "Most men live lives of quiet desperation." Women live such lives, as well. Many of us live with a soul that lies in unrest.

Christ's desire is that we live in peace with God, others, and ourselves. Eugene Peterson, in his paraphrase of the third beatitude, says, "You are blessed when you are content with just who you are – no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought." The Scriptures teach us the source and secret of Christian contentment.

Contentment is exemplary in the life of the Apostle Paul. "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:11-13).

One important Session update is that the elders at our meeting on Tuesday decided to not resume our 8am worship until our 9:30 attendance reaches over 400 people. Our 9:30 worship attendance this September has increased by 17% from 263 (includes both 8 and 9:30 services) in 2015 to 316 this September. This is a positive increase. The concern is our sanctuary seats around 540. Also, as we have had many new folks, the elders thought it important to worship in two services instead of three until the attendance growth merits the change.

I know this is a concern and maybe a discouragement to those who have attended the 8am service, and I am sorry for this inconvenience. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to let one of the elders, Stu, or me know. Our original plan was to resume the service in September and then in mid-October. The elders concluded on Tuesday it is best to wait for our sanctuary to be 80-85% full before we start the 8am service again. I hope this will be soon.

Great peace in the Lord,
Eddie