The Secret of Contentment,  
By Dr. Calvin Ray Evans  
Philippians 4:11  

INTRODUCTION:  

It seems we are living in an age when we’ve never had more to “live on” and less to “live for.”

I. What did Paul mean by Contentment?  
   A. He did not mean he had learned not to care.  
      1. “Suffered loss of all things” (Philippians 3:8)  
      2. “Made all things to all men” (I Corinthians 9:22)  
   B. He did not mean he was satisfied with himself.  
      1. “O wretched man that I am” (Romans 7:24)  
      2. “When I would do good” (Romans 7:21)  
      3. “I press toward the mark” (Philippians 3:14)  
   C. He did not mean that he merely resigned himself to a certain fate.  
      1. No like the stoic  
      2. The ten spies returning from the promised land

II. How did Paul learn the secret of contentment?  
   A. Cannot be selfish and contented at the same time  
      1. Paul’s motto: “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21)  
   B. Learned he could be contended without his freedom  
      1. Some of his greatest writings came while in prison  
   C. Contented without his health  
      1. He had a “thorn in the flesh”  
   D. Contented without the applause of men  
      1. “All men forsook me” (II Timothy 4:16)

CONCLUSION:  

Paul’s only concern was the approval of Christ. He said, “I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

Preachers: Print the above sermon outline and use it in your ministry. The Lord will get the glory. All we ask is that you pray for us, and let us know this sermon outline is helpful. Please visit our www.calvinevans.org Web site and click "Contact Us" to let us know of those being saved or helped. Also, return to our www.calvinevans.org Web site and click "Sermons" for more.