

Brother Archie Miller
Orcutt Christian Church
204 Patterson Rd.
Orcutt, CA 93455
www.OrcuttChristian.Org
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Orcutt Christian Church's
41th Meditation

“A frightened world needs a fearless church.”

Have You Lost Your Sense of Contentment?

The biblical practice of contentment can seem like a lost art, something reserved for spiritual giants but out of reach for the rest of us. In our discontentment, characterized by impatience, overspending, grumbling, and unhappiness, it's hard to imagine what true contentment actually looks and feels like.

But even the apostle Paul said that he learned to be content in any and every circumstance. Paul's remarkable contentment was something grown and developed over time. He speaks of his process in

Philippians 4:11-14 (NASB)

¹¹ **I have learned** to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance **I have learned** the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction.

As you read that remarkable Scripture notice in verse 14 that Paul references those who share with him.

With COVID here is the United States shattering records, the CDC is recommending Americans rethink their Thanksgiving plans. Health care systems struggle as newly detected cases approach 200,000 a day in the U.S. Across our country curfews are AGAIN being implemented, just as we have

had put in place here in California this week.

I am hearing a lot of DISCONTENTMENT, and more out bursts of anger. As a preacher of the Gospel of Grace, I challenge you to refocus your anger. Think about those you know who are sequestered, feeling an increase in isolation, a deepening of loneliness. Make yourself a list, and reach out to them in LOVE.

Love isn't a feeling. It is NOT something you fall into or out of. If you want to know what love looks like, read

1 John 3:16-18 (NASB)

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

The Apostle John here teaches us in verse 16 that real love is selfless and sacrificial. Real love means putting the other person's needs, the other person's very life, before your own. In verse 17 we learn that real love is generous. Real love sees a need and meets it. In verse 18 we learn that real love is shown by actions. Real love is more than mere talk. How can you put your love into action this week?

John 11:17-37

1 John 3:11-18

Job 14

Ezekiel 38-39

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We may not be able to assemble in our chapel, but we can still give our eye to eye contact and wave our hands. In anticipation of reopening the Chapel, we are keeping the chapel, fellowship hall, and bathrooms clean and welcoming. Lord willing, we shall be assembling in person soon.

Mean while, continue to meet for Drive-In worship where we praise God in Word and song. Listen in on stereo FM 94.7. Join with our prayers remembering they still make connection with our Heavenly Father.

Remember to keep a few minutes free at noon time on Tuesday when we gather remotely to pray for each other, and other important issues.

Even if we are not assembling for weekly worship at 204 Patterson Road, our congregation still needs your prayers, your spiritual commitment, and your financial support. Orcutt Christian Church is a State of California 501(c)(3) incorporation [EIN # 952577218] . You can mail your personal check to

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P.O. Box 3199
Orcutt, CA 93457
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