One of the most important things people lack in this life is contentment. The dictionary describes contentment as “the state of being happy, content.” When this subject comes to mind, I always remember the words of the apostle Paul, “…I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content.” (Philippians 4:11)

Knowing the things that Paul was subjected to because of his faith in God and desire to preach “the unsearchable riches of Christ,” it is amazing to me that he could write that. Of course, he had not always been that way, but I suspect that he learned that after becoming a Christian. He says that he had “learned.”

Contentment is not acquired by “going out and getting it,” but by attitude. Being dissatisfied with our position, possessions, or our present circumstances, is the cause of malcontents. A person has to learn that things don’t always turn out the way they would like, but to know their limitations in changing them and being content with the situation.

Evidently, after studying the life of Paul, contentment means understanding that things are always temporary in this world. The only thing that matters is matters of eternity. A person can be in the throes of pain, trouble and persecution and still be content. It all depends on one’s relationship with God.

Paul told Timothy “But godliness with contentment is great gain: (1Tim. 6:6 )

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