

Month #10

Contentment has been defined as “accepting what God provides with a sense of peace and serenity.” As we have seen previously, all that we have comes from God’s hand according to God’s wisdom and sovereignty. That’s why the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, his young son in the faith, that “godliness with contentment is great gain.” That’s why he went on to write that we should be content “. . . if we have food and clothing.”

Sad to say, though, many Christians exhibit a spirit of discontent with what God has provided. In fact, some are like the elderly lady who went for a railway journey for the first time through a very beautiful region of the country. She had looked forward to this trip with eager anticipation. But it took her so long to get her baskets and parcels just so, to get her skirt adjusted, her seat comfortably arranged, and the shades and shutters set just right that by the time she was settling down to enjoy her trip, the conductor was calling out the name of her station. “Oh, my,” she said, “if I had only known that we would be here so soon, I wouldn’t have wasted my time in fussing.”

The wheels of time are literally flying by, and soon, our final station will be at hand. The things we worry and fret about are relatively unimportant when compared to the joy of the journey we call “life.” And yet, just as that dear lady did, we spend so much of our time and energy “fussing” that we miss the good things that God has for us along life’s way.

You see, Christians who demonstrate on a daily basis a spirit of contentment and satisfaction with God’s provisions are able to do two things. First, they are able to “redeem the time” or to make the most of it. In fact, because they are unencumbered with what the Scripture calls “the worries of this life,” they are able to concentrate on seeking first God’s kingdom and righteousness. Second, although they may try to improve their lot in life, their basic contentment enables them to enjoy the journey to the fullest extent possible.

When the “memory book of life” closes for you, will you be able to look back with satisfaction on the journey that God has enabled you to take, or will you regret that you spent too much time and energy “fussing” about things that really didn’t matter? And will you regret that your discontent prevented you from serving the Lord in a greater way here at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church?