

Taking it Home:

- Humbly evaluate your heart: Are you content with what God has allowed you to have or are you discontent? Make a list of everything God has given to you. READ Matthew 6:19-24 and interpret.

- Would you say you're a generous giver? READ 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and interpret. If you are NOT a generous giver today, start using God's biblical principles from Pastor Matthew's message and learn how to become a generous giver.

- Have you been using short term solutions for your finances? How has that worked for you? If it isn't working very well, try using long term solutions that Pastor Matthew stated in his message:
 - Trust God completely
 - Be content with what God has given to you
 - Stop buying stuff because of status or image
 - Recognize God's ownership
 - Commit to lifelong generosity

Related Resources

Total Money Makeover, Dave Ramsey

Radical, David Platt

The Treasure Principle, Randy Alcorn

Momentum
Trusting God Completely
Philippians 4:10-13

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
November 7, 2010

Trusting God Completely

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelc.com

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 7, 2010

Philippians 4:10-13

Quick Review: Paul did not beg God's people to help him in his work for Christ—He trusted God to meet all his needs. Paul said he could do “everything,” including handling poverty and living in abundance through Jesus Christ who gave him strength. This is not an expression of arrogance, but a declaration of the strength provided by Christ through Paul's faith and trust.

My Story

- What does contentment mean to you? Are you content right now, and if not, what makes you content? Discuss.
- When something happens in your life do you immediately trust God and turn over your troubles, worries, problems, cares and concerns to Him? Or, do you seek your own solution first, and IF you fail then you turn to God for help? Share and discuss.

Growing Deeper

- Pastor Matthew talked about “soul rest” in his message. What is “soul rest” and how does one acquire it? (Cf. 1 Tim. 6:6-8)
- The apostle Paul is saying to the Philippian church (paraphrase), *“I'm in a filthy Roman jail for preaching the gospel, but I have everything I need.”* How could Paul be content while rotting in a Roman jail? READ & interpret Psalms 27:14; 37:3-6; Proverbs 3:5-6. Would you be content, like Paul, if you were in jail for Christ?
- READ 2 Corinthians 11:23-30; 12:9-10 & Philippians 4:11-12 - How could the apostle Paul genuinely be “**content**” in the horrible circumstances he was allowed to experience? What was Paul's method of “dealing with” those terrible experiences?
- According to Pastor Matthew's message, does “**the world**” teach contentment & soul rest? READ and interpret: John 15:18 -18; Col. 3:2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15; 3:13. What's God's view of “the world” & its short term mindset?
- Pastor Matthew mentioned in his message that trusting God with our money is a proven financial principle. What did Pastor Matthew mean by that statement? (Cf. Psalms 24:1; 89:11; 1 Cor. 10:26).
- Part of trusting God with our finances is realizing HE has given us **everything**; He's the owner and we are His managers. God's Word encourages Christians to give generously in all circumstances to bless others. Why does God want Christians to be generous givers? Read and interpret: Proverbs 11:25; 22:9; 28:27; Matthew 5:42; 6:1-4; Acts 2:45; Romans 12:13; 1 Cor. 16:2-3; 2 Cor. 8:2-5, 7; Hebrews 13:16)