

# Contentment- You Can Have it All

Pastor Scott Jones - Philippians 4:10-13

• Contentment is \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ . (11)

• Contentment is more \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_ . (12)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
need \_\_\_\_\_ plenty

C O N T E N T M E N T

• Contentment comes from \_\_\_\_\_ inner \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ external \_\_\_\_\_ . (13)

*My situation:* \_\_\_\_\_ *My confidence:* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ *He is able*

~Notes~



Welcome! If you're here for the first time (or if you've been coming since before you were born), we're glad you're with us this morning. Your age or stage doesn't matter here... we're an intergenerational community becoming like Jesus Christ. None of us have arrived; we're all "In Pursuit" and trusting God to give us what we need.

Speaking of need, last week



**Discover Grace Coffee**  
**10:45am, Room A1**

after Richard's message 213 people brought forward prayer requests. What a great move of God in our midst. Each request has been taken to God in prayer this week and we trust Him to move in our congregation.

If you're new to our church or have questions about what it means to be a follower of Christ, we would love to help you get connected and help you on your spiritual journey. Visit the Discover Grace Counter in the Lobby for more information or attend the Discover Grace Coffee, held every Sunday at 10:45am in Room A1.

Joyful,

Scott Jones

The Carnations on our stage represent the lives of those who have recently accepted Christ as their Savior through the outreach efforts of those at Grace.

- Three students made decisions for Christ during our Wednesday night programs.
- Two High School girls from EPIC accepted Christ

## Today's Memory Verse

Philippians 4:12-13

"<sup>12</sup>I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup>I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

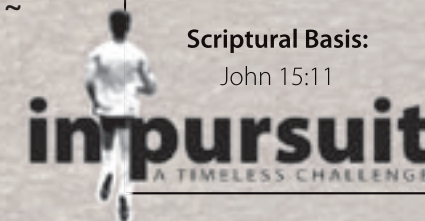
## Today's Service

- ~ prelude ~
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ welcome ~
- ~ offertory - *Hear Our Praises* ~  
sung by Worship Team
- ~ praise & worship ~
- ~ drama ~
- ~ message - Pastor Scott Jones ~
- ~ response ~
- ~ benediction ~
- ~ postlude ~

**Core Competency:**  
Joy

**Creed:** "I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances."

**Scriptural Basis:**  
John 15:11



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Philippians 4:10-13

11/14/2004

**3 Wishes - by Richard Gotthardt**

Do you remember playing the "3 Wishes" game as a child? It's the one in which we are magically- usually by a genie of some kind- awarded three, and only three requests for whatever we desire. The object was to come up with the very best wishes- ones that, if granted, would lead to long-lasting, perhaps even permanent satisfaction and joy. Even though this was only hypothetical, we gave enormous mental energy to crafting our imaginary demands.

I suppose that in some ways we still play this game as grown-ups. Who among us doesn't have a ready-made mental list of dreams and wishes? Which of us doesn't gaze longingly at the lives of others and think, "If only I had their money (or looks, or job, or family or opportunities), then life would be better." Three wishes? Many of us have a lot more than three items on our wish list, don't we?

Of course, the trap is to believe if we actually had our wishes granted, life would be significantly improved or even perfect. How many lottery winners end up disappointed millionaires? How many have climbed the ladder and found it leaning on the wrong wall, at the wrong building, in the wrong neighborhood? How many "have it all" and still feel hollow inside? We've heard this story so many times, but why do we believe that we would be different somehow?

Contentment is more than an elusive quest just around the next corner, but always just out of reach. I know people who actually experience contentment. Independent of circumstances and regardless of material prosperity, they have found something remarkable and wonderful. They are satisfied not complacent or resigned; they truly feel blessed and joyous about their place in the world. Such living is possible. Contentment is truly within reach for regular people like you and I.

But the first step must be to acknowledge that we won't find it just around the bend. We must discover it right where we are or we will never find it at all. Whether you have lots of money or next to nothing, it can add up to that magical amount: "Enough". And you know what makes it so? This profoundly important truth- that God Himself is enough. In fact, He is more than enough for us- even for our deepest longings. And His desire, His "wish", is for us to begin experiencing this starting today. Will we? Or will we keep wishing instead?

- If you won the lottery, do you think that you would be happier? How about in five years, or ten?
- What do you think stands between your heart and the experience of contentment?



**DEVOTIONAL**



**Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Join us on Nov. 24, @ 7:00pm for an evening of giving thanks for a bountiful God and His many blessings. This is a service for the entire family. Childcare available up to five years old.



**Christmas Choir**

Christmas is coming! We invite all singers to join the choir for this special season. We will be singing on the Sunday mornings of Advent and for a special Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals begin Wednesday evening 11/17 at 6:30pm in the choir room. Contact x237 for more information.



**Pray for Students**

Join **Moms in Touch** to pray for students of GCCS and James Madison Prep. Contact Rhonda Howman, 480.899.7339.

**Men's Bible Study Groups**

Small groups with accountability and a way to grow closer to God. Contact Ken Kohlmeier, kenkohlmeier@gccaz.org or x262.



**Children's Christmas Boutique at Gracie's Family Thrift Store**

On Sat., Dec. 11, 9:00am-2:30pm, there will be a special opportunity for children, ages 4-12, to shop for gifts for relatives and friends. With the help of volunteers, the children pick out gifts and pay for their items like "grown ups." All items are priced from 50 cents to just a few dollars- new items will be put out all day long. Santa will be there as well. 1520 E. Apache Blvd., Tempe, 480.967.5231.



**Host an International Student for Thanksgiving Day Dinner**

This is a great one-time opportunity to share yourself and traditions of Thanksgiving with someone from another part of our world. If you would like to host one or two international students at your Thanksgiving Day celebration, please email or call Nancy at peterson.nancy@asu.edu or Nancy at 480.446.7073. (You will probably need to provide transportation.)



**Seniors XYZ Meeting**

Thursday, Nov. 18, 10:30am, Davidson Center. Music by Valley Christian High School Choir. Speaker: Paul Wiggs, GCC Bible Teacher. Still room for the Calif. trip Nov. 27-29 to "Glory of Christmas", Saddleback Church, Tour of TBN. Call Paul/Dottie Hartzler 480.592.9186. Have a Happy Thanksgiving on Thurs., Nov. 25- no XYZ.

**grace community church**

1200 e. southern avenue - tempe, az 85282 - 480.894.2201  
on the web @ [www.gracecommunityaz.org](http://www.gracecommunityaz.org)

During the month of November, a special offering will be received to support eight global missions projects. Prayerfully consider how you can participate in supporting this part of the mission of Grace to bring the love of God to the nations of the world. Offerings can be designated with special Thanksgiving Offering envelopes or by writing "Thanksgiving" in the memo line of your check. This year's goal is to raise \$40,000 for local and global missions.

**Thanksgiving offering**



**The Grace Series**

This is the last Sunday to register for Discover 101, "Discovering the Master and His Church" Saturday, November 20, 8:30am-3:30pm, Room A2.

Discover 101 provides Biblical instruction about the purpose of "the church" and who makes up the body of Christ. Participants learn about the history of GCC, what we believe, our vision, mission and core values. Discover 101 is required for membership at Grace.

Registration for The GRACE Series takes place through Discover Grace Ministries, x214. Pick up a registration form and brochure at the Worship Center Discover Counter, GCC Information Center, or you may call or email to request a form, [getconnected@gccaz.org](mailto:getconnected@gccaz.org).

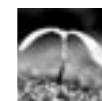


**Fry's Parking**

Vehicles that are parked in the Fry's parking lot must be parked in designated parking spaces or they will be towed at the owners' expense.

**Everybody Needs a Little Help**

Sometimes, life's circumstances can take us all by surprise and we need a little help. Grace offers several ways for you to connect with others during the difficult times in life. Check out the C.A.R.E. Program card (next to Discover Grace Counter in the lobby) or ask a greeter for further assistance.



**Financial Stewardship Update**

Budget-to-date, Nov. 10, 2004	\$ 1,332,500
Actual-to-date, Nov. 10, 2004	\$ 1,231,106

So, why should I give to my church?

There are numerous reasons why an individual gives to his or her church. Some people give because the general financial health of the church is at stake. Some may give out of a sense of embarrassment, while some may feel peer pressure to give. Others will give due to a motivation for a tax advantage or benefit.

However, the greatest reason why we should give to our church is to be involved in the Lord's service here at Grace. After all, our church can only implement its vision when each of us chooses to become a vital part of it.

Remember Grace in your will or trusts.