**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Cultivating Contentment in the Home |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Psalm 128 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2305 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Psalm 128 is one of the best Psalms in the Bible on the family.
   2. Many homes today are a swamp of discontent.
      1. The world tells us that we cannot be happy without certain things.
         1. Many families are financial time bombs waiting to explode.
   3. Psalm 128:1-6
   4. Contentment is an inner sufficiency that keeps us at peace in spite of outward circumstances.
      1. Contentment has the idea of being self-contained.
      2. Philippians 4:11
         1. I do not have to look at circumstances to find my peace.
      3. Contentment is not complacency, laid-back or self-satisfied.
      4. Contentment is not learning to do without possessions only.
         1. We can have possessions and not be content.
         2. We can not have possessions and be content.
      5. Philippians 4:11-12
         1. Paul learned that in whatever state he was in, good or bad, rich or poor, to be content.
   5. The Bible is not opposed to having material possessions.
      1. Deuteronomy 8:18
      2. Psalm 35:27
      3. James 1:17
      4. It does not take poverty to learn contentment.
      5. It does not take riches to learn contentment.
2. what destroys family contentment
   1. Exodus 20:17
      1. Thou shalt not covet.
      2. Covetousness destroys contentment.
   2. The Ten Commandments were given primarily to the family.
      1. God instructed fathers to teach them to their sons and grandsons, that you will have a happy family.
      2. The first nine are laws for living.
      3. The first nine deal with actions.
      4. The last commandment deals with attitudes.
      5. The first nine deal with deeds.
      6. The last one deals with desire.
   3. Covetousness is unlawful desire that comes out of discontent.
      1. The tenth commandment deals with the heart.
   4. Why is covetousness so bad?
      1. Covetousness is deceptive.
         1. We may have a heart full of covetousness and not realize it.
         2. Frances Xavier, Roman Catholic theologian, said, “I have listened to thousands of confessions, never one time have I ever heard anyone confess the sin of covetousness.”
         3. Paul lived a life of excellence before he got saved.
         4. He checked himself off as righteous on every commandment until he got to the tenth.
            1. Romans 7:7

Paul said it was the law that opened his eyes to the fact that he was a sinner.

* + - 1. Many of us are covetous and do not know it.
    1. Covetousness is debasing.
       1. Covetousness reveals the wickedness of our hearts.
       2. Mark 7:21-22
          1. Covetousness comes out of the heart. We are covetous by nature.
          2. Covetousness is listed alongside very evil deeds.

These things come from within and defile the man.

* + - 1. Even we, as Christians saved by grace, have an old, evil heart.
         1. The old nature is still within us.
         2. These things were born in our heart.

Just like the worm in an apple; the worm did not eat his way in but rather ate his way out.

The egg was laid in the blossom.

* + - 1. Ephesians 2:3
         1. We are covetousness by nature.
         2. Children display their inherent covetousness when playing with toys around other children.
      2. John 8:44
         1. Satan coveted the place of God.
      3. Isaiah 14:14
         1. Satan wanted to be like the Most High.
      4. Genesis 3:8
         1. Satan encouraged Eve to sin through covetousness.
      5. Ecclesiastes 5:10
         1. A discontented man is never rich, and a contented man is always rich.
         2. Someone who is not content with what he has, will not be content with what he would have.
         3. To whom little is not enough, nothing is enough.
      6. It is not wrong to have godly ambition.
    1. Covetousness is destructive.
       1. 1 Timothy 6:6-8
          1. Godliness with contentment is great gain.
          2. Raiment refers to clothing.
       2. Luke 9:58
          1. Jesus did not have a place to lay His head, but He was content.
       3. 1 Timothy 6:9-10
          1. The Bible is not against riches.

Abraham was rich.

David was rich.

Solomon was rich.

Joseph of Arimathea was rich.

* + - * 1. The Bible warns against those who set their course, who have a determined desire, to be rich.

For example, a speaker at a graduation may say, “Make all the money you can, just so you make it honestly.”

This is terrible advice.

They might be making money when they ought to be spending time with family.

They might be making money when they ought to be sleeping.

They might be making money when they ought to be soul-winning or worshiping.

They are “things” first; this is called idolatry.

Anything you love more, serve more, desire more, fear more or value more than God is an idol.

* + - 1. Luke 16:13
         1. No man can serve two masters: God and mammon

Mammon is another word for things.

* + - 1. Matthew 6:33
         1. Any time we put God in second place, we commit idolatry.
      2. Colossians 3:5
         1. “Mortify” means “put to death.”
         2. Covetousness wraps itself around us and drags us down.
  1. “If I am what I possess, and I lose those things, then what am I?”

1. what defines family contentment
   1. Faith for the family.
      1. Psalm 128:1
         1. The secret of satisfaction, of true contentment, is God Himself.
      2. Hebrews 13:5
         1. “Conversation” in this passage means “behavior.”
      3. Psalm 73:25-26
      4. 1 Timothy 6:6
   2. Fellowship for the family.
      1. Psalm 128:2-3
         1. It is very biblical to spend time together as a family.
      2. Children do not make a rich man poor, they make a poor man rich.
         1. Psalm 127:3
      3. If I could do it all over again, what would I do with my family?
         1. I would love my spouse more in front of our children.
         2. I would laugh with my children more at our mistakes and joys.
         3. I would listen more, even to the youngest child.
         4. I would be more honest about my weaknesses and stop pretending perfection.
         5. I would pray differently for my family.
            1. Instead of focusing on them and their faults, I would focus more on my own faults.
         6. I would do more things with our children.
         7. I would be more encouraging and bestow more praise.
         8. I would pay more attention to the little things, deeds and words of loving-kindness.
         9. I would share God more intimately with my family.
            1. Using every ordinary day thing to point them to God.
   3. Food for the family.
      1. Psalm 128:2
         1. This passage refers to the simple things in life, not the luxuries; the necessities.
      2. Philippians 4:19
         1. Not all your greed, but your need.
         2. Learn to enjoy the simple things in life.
      3. Proverbs 15:16-17
         1. “A dinner of herbs” refers to a vegetable plate.
         2. “A stalled ox” refers to a steak dinner.
         3. It is better to have a vegetable plate around a table filled with love, than have a steak dinner around a table filled with hatred.
      4. Learn to let your home ring with laughter, conversation and fun.
         1. Be content with the simpler things of life.
      5. Gadgets will not make you happy.
      6. Many people say they want to give their kids the things their parents couldn’t give them; but are they giving them the things that their parents did give to them?
         1. A desire to work
         2. Honesty
         3. Decency
         4. Learning to get along with others.
         5. That the necessities are food and clothing.
2. what develpos family contentment
   1. Philippians 4:11
      1. Contentment is an inner sufficiency that keeps us at peace in spite of outward circumstances.
   2. Learn to trust God.
      1. Psalm 128:1
         1. If we never learn to fear the Lord, we will never be content.
         2. If your family is not God-centered, there will be discontent.
   3. Learn to thank God.
      1. Do not be grumbly hateful; be humbly grateful.
      2. God has been so good to you.
      3. Psalm 128:3-4
         1. Thank the Lord for the blessings that He has given to you.
   4. Learn to love.
      1. Psalm 128:5-6
         1. Learn to look at those around and you and share the love of God.
      2. A covetous person is a person who loves things rather than people.
      3. A contented person is a person who loves people rather than things.
      4. Make it a habit, when visiting someone’s house, to thank the Lord for blessing them.
      5. Teach your children that someone else’s blessing is not their loss.
         1. You cannot be covetous and love people.
         2. You cannot love people and be covetous.
   5. Learn to give.
      1. Story of the Congressman, his son and the McDonalds French fries.
         1. When the father wanted a few fries, the son rejected him and told him that they were his.
         2. Doesn’t he know who bought those fries?
         3. Doesn’t he know I could buy him more if I wanted to?
            1. I could buy him 20 orders of fries and bury him in French fries.
         4. Doesn’t he know I could take those away if I wanted to?
         5. Doesn’t he know I could buy some for myself if I wanted to and sit at another table and eat them by myself?
         6. Doesn’t he know that I am trying to have fellowship with him?
         7. And then God says:
            1. That is the way you are sometimes.
            2. I give you a blessings and when I ask for part of it, you say, “That’s mine.”
            3. I could take it all away from you if I wanted to.
            4. If I wanted to, I could give you more.
            5. Do you realize, that I do not need that?

Psalm 24:1

* + - * 1. Do you realize, I was wanting to have some fellowship with you?

1. CONCLUSION
   1. May God have mercy upon the spirit of greed that is in our hearts.
      1. All that we have has come from God.
   2. Families need to learn to be content and see the blessing of God upon them.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16