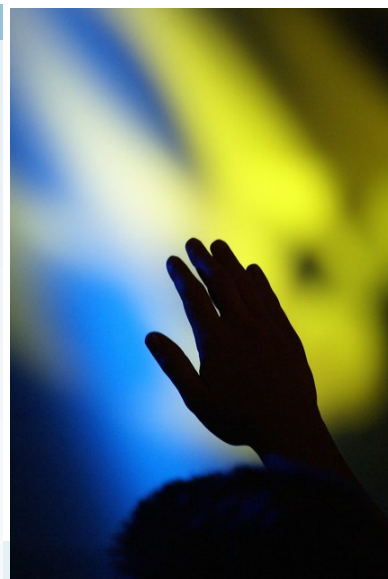




November 2022



Fox River Life



The following article is written by Dr. Sinclair B. Ferguson, he is a Ligonier Ministries teaching fellow, and Chancellor's Professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary. He is the featured teacher

for several Ligonier teaching series, including "Union with Christ." He is author of many books, including "The Whole Christ," "Lessons from the Upper Room," and "Some Pastors and Teachers."

In 2004, Rolling Stone magazine listed "The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time." At the top was Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone." Second on the list (presuming no bias in the choices made by the magazine) came the Rolling Stones' "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction." This song, both in its intended sense and even when pruned of its innuendo, has served as the anthem of the past half-century (it was released in 1965). It therefore comes as no surprise that USA Today reports that the majority of Americans, in every age group, feel that they have never discovered their destiny. There is no reason they should have. For once we cut ourselves off from the ground, means, and end of both our satisfaction and our destiny; we simply starve to death spiritually. No satisfaction means no contentment.

Here is one more facet of the gospel that meets our culture at its point of need: Jesus Christ gives what the world cannot—contentment. This at least is what Saul of Tarsus—one of the least naturally contented of men—discovered: "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound . . . I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:11–13).

What does it mean to be content?

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Ephesians 4:11-12

*11 So Christ himself
gave the apostles, the
prophets, the evange-
lists, the pastors and
teachers,*

*12 to equip his people
for works of service, so
that the body of Christ
may be built up*

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

Paul may have startled his Philippian friends by using a Stoic term for a Christian disposition. Was he hinting that what Stoicism sought—detachment from the disturbances of strong emotions—the gospel alone provides, but without denying or avoiding the reasons for the emotions themselves? By contrast, for Paul contentment comes to expression in situations that arouse strong emotion—having plenty, having nothing—but it is learned in a different school from the Greek Stoa.

How, then, can we discover what Jeremiah Burroughs called the "rare jewel of Christian contentment"? Some of us naively believe we are naturally "contented people." But higher tolerance levels are contentment lookalikes, even imposters. Spiritual contentment is learned, not natural. And it is learned in situations that test us, as Paul indicates—when we are brought low and when we abound. Contentment is the ability to be equally satisfied in both situations, not just in one or other, but in both.

That may seem paradoxical, even contradictory. But the contented believer is one who believes that God's provision is always sufficient and His appointments are always appropriate. Only when we have faced both good and bad (as most of us do, to whatever degree) can we know that neither draws us away from the anchor of our contentment in Christ. Both situations, then, become the school in which we learn to rest in Christ as our sufficiency and to do all things through Him.

Loss of contentment has a long history. Its origin lies before the dawn of time. Satan was (and still is) discontented. For whatever reason (was it, after all, jealousy that the real King of the angels was the Son of God?), he was not content with God's provisions or appointments. And the discontented always seek company. So the serpent deceived our parents. They, in turn, became discontented with being the creaturely likeness of God, and they desired to be as God Himself. Their folly led to our misery.

How, then, are we to learn contentment? Thomas Chalmers spoke rightly of the importance of "the expulsive power of a new affection." Discontentment can only be reversed and driven out by an affection that is both greater than and opposite to it. Enter, then, the riches that are ours in union with Christ.

Only when our Christ is big enough to satisfy us can we be content no matter our particular circumstances; more than that, satisfied with the circumstances and not merely despite the circumstances. This is a telling point. We have not yet attained to biblical contentment when we would be content with Christ were it not for our circumstances. No, genuine contentment is realized both in our circumstances and with our circumstances. Wherein, then, lies this contentment? In the following four dimensions of our knowledge of Christ:

Dimension 1: Everything we The following article is written by Dr. Sinclair B. Ferguson, he is a Ligonier Ministries teaching fellow, and Chancellor's Professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary. He is the featured teacher for several Ligo-

(continued on page 4)



"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness." Psalm 29:2



**Operation
Christmas Child**
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

Craft fun and fellowship

We hope you can join us for our Ladies' Craft Event after church on Sunday, November 13. The project will be a decorative "wreath," which can be displayed for winter or for the holiday of your choice. You may use paints and some other supplies that will be provided. We encourage you also to bring some of your own decorative items and a glue gun. Please bring your lunch.



Dimension 1: Everything we need and everything we lack is found in Christ. All Christians believe this. But do we? The power of our union with Christ in our lives requires a growing knowledge of all that is ours in Him. Yet the doctrine itself can be enthusiastically endorsed while it remains what Jonathan Edwards called merely a "notion." We have the idea, but the reality does not touch our affections. As John Owen would put it, we know the truth but not the power of the truth.

How, then, does it become a reality? Only by having our hearts soaked in the lavish grace revealed in such passages as Ephesians 1:3–14 or Colossians 2:6–3:4. This is the tonic Calvin eloquently prescribes: "We see that our whole salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ. We should therefore take care not to derive the least portion of it from anywhere else" (Institutes 2.16.19). Calvin tellingly ends by contrasting those for whom this is true with those who are "not content with Christ alone."

Dimension 2: This all-sufficient Christ is with us. Hebrews 13:5–6 famously exhorts us to "be content with such things as you have" but also explains why. Whether we win or lose, whether we have or have not, whether in joy or in sorrow, "He himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' " (emphasis mine). The Greek text here contains an entire handful of negatives—bad in English grammar, permissible in Greek, but glorious in theology. The message is: this all-sufficient Lord Jesus is with you; no way will He leave you. This is all you need. At the end of the day, He is your only sufficiency—you will have nothing else as you breathe your last. But since He will be sufficient for you for all eternity, He is no less so now as well.

Dimension 3: We are in this all-sufficient Christ. We are united to Him in the eternal counsel, in the federal union, by His incarnation, and through faith. All the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him bodily, and we have come to fullness of life in Him—indeed, we are complete in Him (Col. 2:9–10). As Calvin teaches us: in His incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, session, and return, Christ considers Himself incomplete without us. What contentment is found in knowing this to be true!

Dimension 4: This all-sufficient Christ is in us. We can say with Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). We do not minimize the shocking parallel reality that "sin . . . dwells in me" (Rom. 7:17). But neither should that fact diminish the more staggering truth of Christ's promise to come to indwell us in the power of the Spirit—even to make His "home" with us (John 14:17, 20, 23b; 17:23). Those gripped by these truths learn in whatever state they are to be content. In Christ, they find all that they need and all that they lack.

Paul understood this (see Phil. 3:7–11). However, he also knew that neither he nor we have attained to its full realization (vv. 12–14). But Christ is also in us as "the hope of glory" (that is, the present assurance of what has not yet been realized; Col. 1:27). One day, He will appear and transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body (Phil. 3:21). Then, we will awake and be satisfied with His likeness (Ps. 17:15; see 1 John 3:2). Then, possessing new resurrection capacities, we will at last be able to drink in all that Christ is and has done for us, and know the utter contentment for which we were created. We already taste this now; then we will eat and drink it unendingly in the new heaven and earth.

We were actually created to feast on glory. But we have sinned and fallen short of it (Rom. 3:23). It has become unattainable. No wonder, then, that those made for the eternal are by nature discontented with the temporal. We try the broken cisterns, but their waters fail and mock us until, in God's providence, we learn that there is "none but Christ," as the old hymn states: "Now none but Christ can satisfy, None other name for me! There's love, and life, and lasting joy, Lord Jesus, found in thee."

Psalms 131:2 pictures all this for us. By nature, we are like unweaned children. We have a desire only for milk. We have no taste for solids. We are discontented until we confess, "I can't get no satisfaction." Exhausted, we yield to Christ and learn to say, "My soul is as a weaned child." Here is the blessed paradox: the moment you give in to Him is the moment you begin to learn contentment. May God grant this contentment for all who know Him.

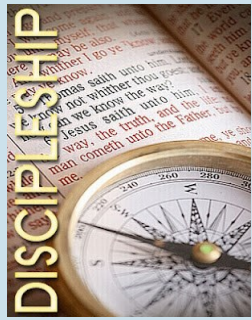
In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim



SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST - Jeremias "Mias" (13 years old)
Jeremias, who prefers to be called "Mias," has been at CSC since 2018. He is an active boy who enjoys collecting insects and playing with kites. He loves outdoor time and can often be found playing football or soccer with the other boys.

Mias has a sweet temperament and gets along with most of the children and staff at the shelter. He also likes to cook, and on special occasions like birthday parties, he often helps the kitchen staff. He reports that he likes to work with ingredients to make a final product.

Mias works hard in school, and he likes to read. His favorite book right now is *The Amazing Book of Facts* because of all the interesting knowledge in it and the fun illustrations. Each night he reads his Bible before bed. He says that the Book of Revelation is the best because "it shows that the right always wins!" Jeremias hopes to be a pastor in a church when he grows up.



Beginning on the 6th of November we will be starting the next Unit in our Answers in Genesis Sunday School Material. Unit 17 will be dealing with the life of Jesus from Palm Sunday through His Ascension. If you have not been a part of Sunday School for a while or have never been, this would be a great time to start. In addition to our Sunday School or Men's and Women's studies are going great. The men are currently in the book of Revelation and the Thursday Ladies Bible study is going the three epistles of John and the Saturday women's study is going through the book of Hebrews. A lot of good studies and great fellowship in all of them and I encourage you to take part in them.

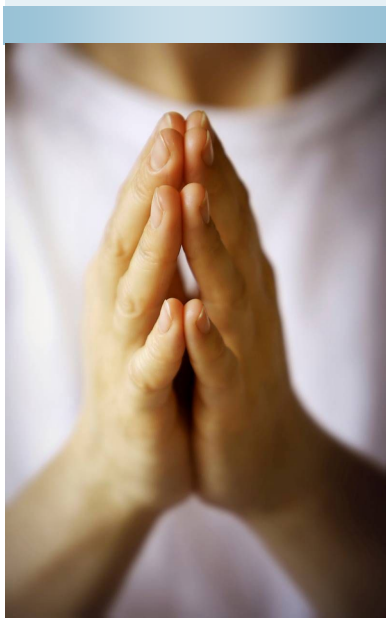
The Sunday school children are studying about Noah and his family. Noah was a good man who loved God even when no one else did. He trusted God and followed God's instructions to build an ark. God saved Noah and his family from a flood that destroyed the world. God sent a rainbow as a promise never to send such a flood again. The children are learning about faith following God's plan even we think it's not possible.



Next to the Bible, the book that I value most is John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. I believe I have read it though at least a hundred times. It is a volume of which I never seem to tire.

Charles Spurgeon





Sunday Evening Services Schedule

November 6—Ask Pastor Tim @5:00pm

November 13—Prayer@ 5:00pm

November 20—Solo Christos @5:00pm

November 27—Prayer@5:00pm



Financial Update—N, 2022
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,952.00
Received: \$ 2,244 per week
Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Men's & Women's
Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00pm

Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am



November 6

Pat Groff

November 13

Howard Schimke

November 20

Rob Abitz

November 27

Scott Smith



Please contact **Carol Smith**
at **(920) 788-9795**

to volunteer in 3 different
capacities in our children's
ministry. There are also
sign-up sheets for the
different rooms you can

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Do you know ?

FRBC has two first aid kits. One is in the ministry coordinator area by the mail boxes The second one is in the kitchen. They are both stock with bandages, aspirin, Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, burn cream and cold compresses. Our AED machine is also up to date it is located across from the ministry coordinator desk.



Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

News from the Missions Board—

We will be working to complete our Policy document as well as discussing the Mission Spotlight, the missions budget, and other miscellaneous items. Members of the board include Ray and Ellen Rudzinski, Mark and Nancy Wildenburg, Steve Krauss, and Rick Hinz.



UPDATE...

Our remaining services for Care Partners this year are Nov. 3 and

Dec. 1.

The next Praise Connection will be held at the Godfrey home on Friday evening, Dec. 2, at 6:30pm

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



4—Anne Van Asten
12— Gracey Platel
16—Michael Mlodzik
19— Caleb Dohms

3—Rob & Lynn Mlodzik

Deaconess of the month: Jan Jourdan

Fall Family Festival will be on Nov. 5th. 4-6 pm Bring your children or grandchildren for some pumpkin fun. Chili, soups and pumpkin bars will be on the menu. We are looking for volunteers, please call the deaconess if you can help, or church office at 920-734-6162.

Fox River Baptist Church

2600 East
Henry Street
Appleton, WI
54915

Phone: 920-734-6162

E-mail:
office@foxriverbaptist.com

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new Prayer request email address:

Care to be part of the prayer chain?

Email or call Becky Godfrey at
becl.godfrey@gmail.com —
(920) 277-1526