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CHRISTIAN CONTENTMENT DESCRIBED

"I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." (Philippians 4:11)

These words are brought in by Paul as a clear argument to persuade the Philippians that he did not seek after great things in the world, and that he sought not “theirs” but “them.” He did not long for great wealth. His heart was taken up with better things. “I do not speak”, he says, “in respect of want, for whether I have or have not, my heart is fully satisfied, I have enough: I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” “I have learned”—Contentment in every condition is a great art, a spiritual mystery. It is to be learned, and to be learned as a mystery. And so in verse 12 he affirms: “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed.” The word which is translated “instructed” is derived from the word that signifies “mystery; it is just as if he had said, “I have learned the mystery of this business.”

Contentment is to be learned as a great mystery, and those who are thoroughly trained in this art, which is like Samson’s riddle to a natural man, have learned a deep mystery. “I have learned it” – I do not have to learn it now, nor did I have the art at first; I have attained it, through with much ado, and now, by the grace of God, I have become the master of this art. **AMEN**

~Jeremiah Burroughs (1599-1646)

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

