

THE BULWARK

“I HAVE LEARNED TO BE CONTENT”

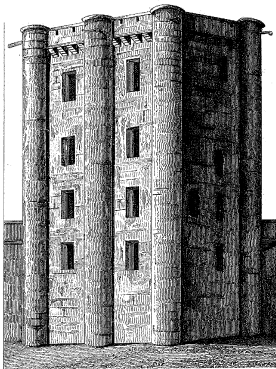
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following”*
Psalms 48:13

“All a man’s labor is for the mouth and yet his appetite is not satisfied.” (Ecclesiastes 6:7) *“If man fathered a hundred children and lives many years, however many they be, but his soul is not satisfied with good things, and he does not even have a proper burial, then I say, better the miscarriage than he..”* (Ecclesiastes 6:3) *“He who loves money will not be satisfied with money.”* (Ecclesiastes 5:10) In the 27th chapter of Proverbs, in verse twenty Solomon notes, *“Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.”* Can we honestly say we are satisfied and manifest an attitude that speaks one of gratitude? Or have we become so inundated with the mind set so prevalent in society of always wanting more and more, to the degree that it could be said the *“eye is never satisfied.”*



thankful centers on the big things, but when we learn the essence of contentment we open self up to a new dimension of thanksgiving. *“Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content is whatever circumstances I am”* (Philippians 4:11) Content carries the meaning of being satisfied or resigned to circumstances. Contentment is an attitude that must be learned and constantly worked. Appreciate what you do have and don’t get caught in the snare of longing for more and more. *“Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion”.* (Proverbs 30:8b) *“Always giving thanks for all things in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in God, even the Father.”* (Ephesians 5:20) *“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* (1Thessalonians 5:18)

In the comic “Ziggy” seen some years back, it showed the character sitting at a table saying, “These days, when you give thanks at mealtime...it’s for being able to afford another one...” Shouldn’t that quote cause each one to step back, reflect and come to appreciate how blessed we are. With this awareness in place, it should foster an attitude of gratitude. “Thankful for the blessings, both great and small” is a quote from a line that was featured in a scene from a movie some years back; and is apropos.

Oft times our focus with respect to being

Apart from those things of a physical nature, there is another aspect to consider. *“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.”* (Colossians 3:15) To get the full picture, read backwards to verse twelve and see what is entailed in our being thankful. Can you truly say you are thankful for the opportunity to be of service to brethren who need you to forgive, to have patience with them, manifest humility, employ kindness and have a heart of compassion toward them? Could it be there is something we need to be learning along with contentment for which to be thankful? (wbe)