

Great Gain: Content Where God Has You

Passage: 1 Timothy 6:6-7 | Speaker: Steve Grothoff | Date: 260921

SUMMARY

Preaching from 1 Timothy 6:6-7 -- godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into this world and can carry nothing out -- Steve asks three questions: are you content with where God has you in life, what does true contentment look like, and how do we avoid being discontent. He opens by noting how much abundance we live in and how discontent that seems to breed, citing figures for the elective cosmetic surgery industry and Barna Research's top reasons people leave churches (doctrinal differences, a bad church experience, and members who were divisive, judgmental or critical) -- all three, he points out, are internal to the church, and each comes down to people not being content with where their church was leading them. On the first question, Steve shares how he used to change jobs whenever he was unhappy before realizing he was the problem, not the circumstances; he says remaining faithful isn't an if-then bargain with God (God asks us to remain faithful in him, and he will remain faithful in us), and that we should trust God with our physical lives as much as our spiritual ones -- external changes without internal change leave us discontent, and discontent should move us to action, not complaining and bitterness. On the second, personal contentment means faithfulness that doesn't hinge on circumstances (Paul to the Philippians), thankfulness in everything (Paul to the Thessalonians), and resting in God's sovereignty; for a church it means unity rather than uniformity (1 Corinthians 12), remembering that tradition and preference are not doctrine, and that history and background don't equal spiritual maturity. On the third, he gives four steps: remember God's sovereignty (Romans 8:28), be grateful and thankful (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Peter 1:7), be prayerful and humble -- including a story about praying 'God, if it's me, fix my heart' and seeing God change both the heart and the situation -- and reprioritize toward a deeper relationship with Christ, since everything we do is an act of worship (Romans 12:1). One hour in a service out of roughly a hundred waking hours a week, he notes, is about one percent, which sets up next week's message on what worship looks like day to day.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6-7). We live in abundance and too many options breed discontent -- and the top reasons people leave churches (doctrinal

differences, a bad church experience, divisive or judgmental members) are internal ones, all rooted in not being content with where the church was leading them.

- Circumstances don't determine contentment -- our hearts do. Changing jobs, churches or situations without changing internally leaves us unsatisfied, and discontent should push us toward being part of the solution, not toward complaining and bitterness.
- Remaining faithful isn't an if-then deal with God: he asks us to remain faithful in him, and he'll remain faithful in us -- and we should trust him with our physical lives (finances, health, where we live and work) as much as our spiritual ones.
- For a church, contentment looks like unity, not uniformity (1 Corinthians 12): we can be different and still one body pointed at the same mission, tradition and preference aren't doctrine, and time in the faith doesn't equal spiritual maturity.
- Four ways to avoid being discontent: remember God's sovereignty, be grateful and thankful, be prayerful and humble ('God, if it's me, fix my heart'), and reprioritize toward Christ -- because everything we do is worship, not just the one hour in a service.

Introduction

We need to just, I just need to let you guys know, like, we just need to stay standing until I get the verses out. Otherwise, you guys are going to be, stand up, sit down, stand up, sit down.

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-7

So, all right, we are in 1 Timothy. We are in chapter 6, verses 6 and 7.

Now, godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. Father, we thank you. We thank you for your word. Father, we thank you for this time that we get together.

Opening Prayer

And Father, we just, we come to you to just talk about something that we each and every one deal with. We each and every one struggle with from time to time. Father, that is just being content in the life that we live. Father, content in where you have us in life right now. Content with where we are in

your will. And Father, as we go through this, just help us to reach a better understanding of being able to understand, Father, that everything is per your will. Nothing is out of place. Nothing is a surprise to you. Father, everything that is happening is your will.

Father, we thank you. We thank you for that. We thank you for the freedom that comes from that when we can really, truly just live by that and put our faith in that.

Father, we thank you for the sacrifice of your son. Father, we thank you for the salvation that that brought each and every one of us. And Father, we just thank you again for your word. And we ask all these things in your son's name. Amen. Thank you, guys.

Setting the Stage: A Discontented Culture and Church

Would you all say we live in a country that's content with where we live? Do you think that we're content? Has anybody been to another country for an extended period of time that you see how other people live? And you see that they don't worry about if they're going to go to McDonald's or Burger King for lunch. They worry about, am I going to eat lunch? What am I going to eat for lunch? We have abundance to an extent in our country that we don't even understand what truly what contentment should look like because we're discontent because we've got too many options all the time.

I was looking some things up and I wanted to share this little bit of information with you guys. And did you know that the elective cosmetic cosmetic surgery industry? So elective, not people that have been in an accident and need reconstructive surgery, elective cosmetic surgery industry was an \$86 billion industry last year. Billion with a B, \$86 billion because people aren't content with how they look, how God made them.

This is projected to grow consistently by at least 11 percent until 2035.

That's a projected \$245 and a half billion dollars by 2035.

\$245 billion dollars spent to change the way that we look because we're not happy with the way that we look.

We see here in verse 6, Paul is writing to Timothy and he says, Godliness with contentment is great gain.

Godliness with contentment. What is that? What is that supposed to mean? What does that look like? What does that mean for each and every one of us?

Well, I'm going to tell you what it doesn't look like. And I'm going to give you some facts about the Christian church as a whole over the last 20, well, from 2000 to 2021.

Church attendance decreased by 50%. Church attendance decreased by 50% from 2020 to 2021. The top three reasons, this is Barna Research. So this is a legitimate research platform. The top three reasons that people left, first and foremost, were doctrinal differences. I understand. This is what we should be focusing on. And if you are preaching anything other than what is written here, then absolutely, that's a good reason to leave a church. The problem is, is when they looked into what those doctrinal differences were, most of them were over LGBT things. People either being okay with it or not being okay with it. And then the people that were okay with it leaving the church, that was the top reason. The second reason was a bad church experience. Church hurt.

I'm going to give you guys another example that's going to involve fast food. We've got tacos coming, so I'm going to use some food illustrations here for you guys. But if you go to a fast food restaurant, you go through the drive-thru, and somebody gets your order wrong, do you just stop eating? All together. Like, well, that's ruined food for me for the rest of my life. One person screwed this up for me, and I am never going to eat again.

That sounds ridiculous, does it not? But there are people that that is how they treat church. One experience, one bad experience, they've been hurt one time in a church experience, and they say, church is not for me anymore.

Why is it okay for people? Well, how can people justify something like that with a one-time experience? The third reason that people left church at an alarming rate over the last 25 years now,

the one that bothers me the most, probably more than anything, I can understand the other two. The one that bothers me the most is church members were too divisive, too judgmental, or too critical.

The people that are supposed to be the ones living out the Christian life were the ones that were pushing people away from the Christian life. This wasn't an external threat. All three reasons here are internal reasons. All three reasons are the church was the problem. And if you read each and every one of those, you can boil that down to one thing. People were not content with where their church was leading them. People were not content with the people that were in the church.

So three things we're going to talk about today.

Three Questions, and Point 1: Are You Content Where God Has You?

Three questions I want to ask you guys and that I want to answer or help you answer. Number one, are you content with where God has you in life? Number two, what does true contentment look like? And number three, how can we avoid being discontent in our own lives?

It's a problem. It's a thing that's been a problem. And I'm not saying that it's a problem here, but it is a problem churchwide in every church. Are you content with where God has you in life? Do you allow your circumstances to dictate your contentment? Do you allow what is going on in your life? Do you allow where you are at to dictate your contentment? For a long time, I would work a job for six, eight months, and then I would go somewhere else. I would work a job for a year, I would go somewhere else.

I have a lot of experience because of that. But at the same time, what I realized was I was at a job, and I would say, I don't like the way they do this. I'm going to find another job. I would go over here. I don't like the way they do this. I'm going to find another job. And thinking that my circumstances, where I was at, who I was around, was going to change, my contentment was working.

You know what I found out as I was going through, figuring all of this out, and trying to figure out why it was that I wasn't happy? I was the problem. It was me. I wasn't content because I wasn't okay with being okay with where I was.

Almost always, at some point in every situation, if you are not content there, you are part of the problem in some way. Not the situation. It's your heart. It's where you're at. It's your mindset.

It's easy for us to blame it on other things when really we need to just kind of stop and take a look and say, you know what? I need to be better about where I'm at.

Now, that's the physical side of things. Let's put that into the spiritual side of things. Are you faithful in the circumstances of your life at this moment? We've had a lot of medical things happen in this church in the last year.

Are we content with the circumstances of our lives? The thing that makes that the easiest to go through is to just remember and put your faith in the fact that God is sovereign. Like I said, God's will is being done.

God knows who you are. God knows where you are. God knows what you're going through. And he's in control of it all.

Remaining faithful is not an if-then situation based on our own ideas of what life should look like. Well, if I do this, then God better be faithful. Well, if I am doing what I'm supposed to be doing, then God better be faithful. No, it's the other way around.

God says, if you remain faithful in me, I will remain faithful in you. That's it. There's no exchange of goods. There's no exchange of services. That is all God asks of us. Remain faithful in me and I will remain faithful in you.

That doesn't always look the way we want it to look. That doesn't always look like what we think life is going to look like.

That's not easy. It's difficult. It's difficult.

Would we all agree, as Christians, would we all agree that reading our Bibles is important to building and maintaining faith? Would we agree on that? That's probably a pretty foundational thing. Would we also agree that having a daily prayer life is important to building and maintaining our faith? We would all agree on that.

You trust God with the control of your spiritual well-being.

That's what that says. Now, do you trust God with the physical aspects of your life?

Do you trust God with your finances? Do you trust God has placed you where you are, when you are, for his purposes? Do you trust that the job that you're working at is according to God's will? Do you trust that your living situation is according to God's will? That you live next to the people that you live next to for a reason? That your neighbors are your neighbors because God willed it that way? Do you live your life and trusting God with your health?

Do you trust that God is taking care of the physical aspects of your life just as much as you trust that he is taking care of the spiritual sides of your life? It's all inclusive. They're all the same. It's you. It's all God taking care of the different parts of you. Let me ask it to you like this. If one year from now, one year from now, you were in the exact same position that you are in right now, the very exact same position as you are in this very moment, would you still remain faithful to him?

Would you trust that he is in control?

We've got a lot of people on here that are in difficult situations. Do you trust that God is in control of that and that if you're still dealing with something in a year that God is still taking care of you? If you can trust that God will grow you spiritually when you are faithful to him, why do some people find it so hard to trust him with their physical well-being as well? Why do we try to do things on our own? Why do we go it our own way thinking, well, I've got to do this because it's not a spiritual thing. God's

going to have to take or I'm going to have to take care of this because God's not going to. Now, we might not say it in that way, but how many times is that that the thought process? Is that the the the motivation of us doing something? Well, I've got to do this because God's not going to help me with it.

We get it backwards.

Here's the thing. We get it so backwards because we can become so easily discontent.

With our physical circumstances, but we are quick to be content with where we are spiritually. We're OK with the fact that we're not growing spiritually. A lot of times we're OK with not reading our Bible daily. If I said everybody in here, raise your hand if you read your Bible every day without fail or you pray every day without fail.

I'm not raising my hand because I don't.

It's not that I don't want to, but.

I get content with where I am spiritually sometimes. But how many times do we do that with our physical that we just say, well, this is as good as it's going to get. I'm just going to stay right here.

Usually it's the other way around. Usually we become so discontent with our physical circumstances that we go and do with our own of our own volition and leave God behind and say, well, I've got to do this.

We get it backwards. I'll put it to you again like this. External changes without internal changes keeps us unsatisfied and discontent.

Say that again. External changes without internal changes keeps us unsatisfied and discontent. But true internal change can keep you content no matter what the external circumstances of your life are, no matter how quickly they change, no matter how drastically they change.

The thing with discontentment is it should motivate us to action towards a solution. If we're discontent and we're not motivated to do something about it, that just leads to complaining and eventually bitterness. Complaining and bitterness are very unfruitful. You're not going to get anything out of complaining and being bitter.

Do something. Be a part of the solution. Help out. If you don't like the way something's going at church, well, I don't like the way that this goes. Become part of the team that makes that happen. Become part of the team that says, you know what?

We've had issues with music. That was the big problem from the very, very beginning. That was what I caught when coming through the revitalization was worship. The way and the style of worship was the problem in a lot of places.

I disagree.

I think that it was just people had preferences and they weren't okay with moving.

We weren't doing it for the right reasons. We weren't aiming our worship in the right directions. We were doing it for ourselves. We weren't doing it for God. Contentment with people leads to being thankful. If you are content, if you have contentment with people, you are thankful for the people that you have. Your contentment will lead you to compromise. Hey, I don't exactly see eye to eye with you, but you know what? Because we're both going in the same direction, because we both are aimed at the mission of loving Jesus and expanding his kingdom. The fact that you do something this way and I do something this way, that's okay, because we're still going the same direction. We can compromise. The thing is, when we do that spiritually, when we are content, we do the same thing. When we become content spiritually, guess what? We start to compromise. And we start to compromise in a way that says, well, I know I'm not supposed to do this, but you know what? I'm going to be okay with doing this. It's the same progress, but in a completely different direction.

So what does true contentment look like?

Point 2: What Does True Contentment Look Like?

What does that look like?

Personally, what does that look like for us? I'm going to give us two different places. Personally, what does that look like for us? And corporately as a church, what does that look like for us? Personally, for us, what true contentment should look like? Like I said earlier, changes in circumstances don't dictate our faithfulness to God. We remain faithful no matter what.

Paul tells Philippian churches, I have learned how to be content in whatever I have. I have known, I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or an empty one, with plenty or with little.

And we all hear this one quoted, this verse quoted, and we hear it quoted in a way that's, we see it on the back of like football shirts or on the backs of things. And I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. What he's saying is, Christ is what gives me strength. Christ is what I am content in. I am content in having Christ. I don't need stuff. If I have nothing, if I have everything, I have Christ and that is everything. That is what Paul is telling them.

Number two, personal contentment.

We see this often. We have, I'm guilty of it. Every one of us at some point is guilty of it.

We learn not to complain about trivial matters. We learn that grumbling over unimportant things does nothing.

Complaining again just comes from discontentment. And discontentment comes from ungratefulness. Ungratefulness.

Paul has a solution for that.

He tells the Thessalonian church, rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. And in everything, in everything, give thanks. For it is the will of God and Christ Jesus for you. In everything that happens to you, give thanks. Thank you, Lord, for this. Thank you, Lord, for the tragedy that has happened in my life. How often, how hard is that? But that comes from a place of, if you aren't being thankful already, it's that much harder to be thankful any other time. It takes time. And that's why, and it takes a, it's a habit. That's why he says, pray without ceasing. Rejoice always. Always. Without ceasing. And in everything. He says, it does not matter what that situation is. It does not matter what it is. You should be praising God, and you should be thanking God.

Number three, you learn how to rest. Rest in the sovereignty of God. You don't just trust it. You rest in it. That takes time. That takes experience. That takes maturity.

Again, Paul tells the Philippians, Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication. With thanksgiving, again, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Don't worry about anything. God's got you. Rest in that. Rest in his sovereignty.

Now, what does that look like corporately for a church?

Contentment as a Church: Unity, Not Uniformity

Paul writes in just about every letter that he writes what a united church is supposed to look like and how being united as a church is important. He says things like, Be of one heart and one mind. Do nothing out of selfishness. Be patient with one another. Humbly serve one another. As we talked about at the beginning, church people are the biggest cause of people leaving church. We need to change the way that we act. We need to change the way that we are. This isn't a new problem. Paul

wrote about this in just about every letter, too. It was almost all of his letters. That's the whole reason he wrote most of the time. He's like, Hey, you guys aren't getting along. Let's talk about why that is. This isn't a new thing. It's been going on for 2,000 years of Christian history.

This is the exact reason why, if you read through Acts 15, why the leaders of the church came together and said, Hey, we need to figure out what's going on here because we've got people that aren't unified. This is the same issue we've been talking about as we were going through Galatians. This is the same issue that Paul writes to the Corinthian church about in two different letters.

You guys need to be unified. You guys all come from different places. You guys all come from different backgrounds. The Jews and the Gentiles were two completely different people. The Jewish people had 2,000 years of tradition in history. From Abraham to the time of Jesus. Roughly 2,000 years of history there.

The Gentiles were from everywhere. They were various ethnicities. They were various backgrounds.

But now all of a sudden, they were all part of the same church. They were all part of the same mission. They were all pointed in the same direction.

And everybody had their idea of what that was supposed to look like.

Like we read in Galatians, the Judaizers at the time wanted the Gentiles to look, act, celebrate, and live the exact same way that they did. Well, in order for you to become a Christian, you obviously need to become a Jew first because that's part of the steps. Well, the Bible doesn't say that. Jesus never preached that. That is not the gospel.

The entirety of 1 Corinthians 12 is Paul explaining that the body of Christ can be diverse, but still be unified. It can look completely different. We can all be totally different. But if we all have the same mission in mind, then we can be unified.

We can have different backgrounds. We can have different preferences. We can have different giftings. We can have totally different lives. But as long as Christ is the head of the body that we are all part of, all the parts will look different and serve different purposes, but they will all be pointed in the same direction for the same mission. I say all these things for unity and this and that. So what does that have to do with being content as a church? What does that mean for contentment, for us becoming content with where we are as a church?

Uniformity is not unity. We cannot all look the same. We cannot all act exactly the same. We cannot all live the exact same lives and expect that we're going to go anywhere and expect that we are going to be able to reach out and expect that we are going to be able to reach people that are over here and people that are over here if we all look like right here. It's just not going to work.

We can all be different and still part of the same body with the same mission. Again, read 1 Corinthians chapter 12. That's the whole point of it. The foot says, I want to look like the hand. The hand says, I want to look like the foot.

Everybody wants to be an eye. Well, what would that look like? Well, it's just we can't all be the same. We all have different roles. We all have different places. We all have different giftings.

Number two, tradition and personal preferences are not doctrine. It's what Paul was getting at with the Jewish people. Just because it's what has always been or what we prefer, that doesn't necessarily always make it right. Third, biblical truth and authority is paramount, not requirements set forth by the masses.

And third, don't judge others based on your experiences. History and background do not equate to spiritual maturity. History, I've been a Christian for less than a decade. There are some of you in here that have been Christians longer than I've been alive.

That's there's there's no there's nothing that says that your time in service. It makes you any better or any worse because of the time that you've been in or what you used to do or what your life looked like beforehand.

For those of us that have been in the military, we know what those people look like that think, well, I've been in for this long. They don't do their job well. They are terrible at their job, terrible at executing, terrible at leadership. But, well, I've been in longer than you, so I obviously know what I'm talking about. You don't.

That's that's not Christianity, guys. That's not Christianity. Look at Paul. Paul became a Christian.

And immediately, immediately went and started preaching the gospel and immediately went. And within five years was planting churches. Now, God equipped him to do so. But does that not mean that God can equip each and every one of us in a separate way in a different timeline? It very much so does.

Point 3: How Do We Avoid Being Discontent?

Last point.

How do we avoid being discontent in our own lives? We've got four points for you guys. And the fourth one is actually going to lead us into next week's sermon. So the first three.

Step 1: Faithfully Remember God's Sovereignty

Faithfully remember God's sovereignty.

Romans 8, 28. For we know that those who love God, all things work together for good. If you are a child of God, if you are an adopted member of the family of God, he's got your back. Remember that. Number two. Be grateful and thankful.

Step 2: Be Grateful and Thankful

Even through the tough times.

Ephesians 5, 20. Give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything. 1 Peter 1, 7. Know that these trials will show your faith is genuine. As you go through things, know that these will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold. Though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Christ Jesus is revealed to the whole world.

Stay thankful. Stay grateful.

Number three.

Step 3: Be Prayerful and Humble

Be prayerful and humble. For this one, I'm going to share a story with you guys about my walk. And where I've been, we started going to Freshwater in 2020, October of 2020. The pastor left in March of 2020. We were without a pastor at our church for 18 months. During that 18 months, we had people that were leading worship. The people that were leading worship, we absolutely loved their worship set. Their worship sets were good. They were very theologically deep. They were very, very, very intentional about the songs that they picked.

Well, we hired Robert. And not long after, we hired a worship minister who took over. And he was fresh out of college, brand new at it. And I didn't necessarily, Hallie and I, neither one necessarily liked the song choices at that point.

It got to the point where that was the first thing that we talked about when we got in the car. We would get in the car from church and be like, man, that was a really good message. But why did we do those songs? Why those songs? Why this? Why that? And nitpicking.

That went on for a little bit. And then one day we got in the car together and we both sat down and we were both like, it was only God, but for whatever reason, we both sat down and we were like, why are we so disgruntled about this? Why are we so bitter about this?

And we said, we need to be praying about this because we were like, we were legitimately looking at it and thinking, well, is this where we want to stay?

The messages were great. The people were great. The community was great.

But for some reason, we just didn't quite like the sermon or the worship set. So what did we do? We were prayerful and we were humble. And this is what I want to ask each and every one of you. If you have something that is going on, if you are unhappy with where something is,

especially at church, but in any aspect of your life, I want to ask you guys to do this thing right here. Be prayerful and be humble. What does that look like?

God, I don't know what your will is.

But if it is a problem that needs to change their heart, if it's something that needs to happen, if I'm not doing my part, I would hope that you guys are praying, God, work on him. But part of that humility is, God, if it's me, work on me. If my heart is the problem, guess what? Change my heart too. You know what I found? I found that in praying that prayer, Hallie and I very intentionally praying that prayer together, separately, anytime we felt that way, God met us in the middle. God changed my heart a lot, but God also changed how that was going. And we met in the middle. And there was very, we became very happy with where we were as a church. We became very happy with the worship. We were able to worship better and deeper because all we did was we humbly prayed to God and said, God, if I'm the problem, let me be fixed. You know, the more that I do that in my life, the more that I look at something that I feel like I'm not completely happy with, the more that I go and somebody rubs me the wrong way or something just doesn't quite sit right with me, that's my prayer. God, if I'm wrong, fix my heart. God, if they're wrong, Father, fix their heart. Work on them, but work on me still too.

As I do that, every time I realize something's happened to me.

My heart's been changed. It may only be a little bit, but each and every time at somewhere, at some place, guess what? I was part of the problem.

Guys, church isn't perfect. Church is never going to be perfect.

We're people. We're all broken. But if each and every one of us can band together, even in our brokenness, and be aimed in the same direction, with the same goal, with the same purpose, with the same mission, and our mission is to do what God wants us to do and keep Christ at the center of

everything that we do, it doesn't matter because in my weakness, I am strong.

In each of our weaknesses, guess what? There's somebody else that can cover up your weakness and then some because that's just what being part of a body is about. Where I don't, where I'm insufficient, guess what? There's somebody else that is far more sufficient at it than I am.

Step 4: Reprioritize Toward a Deeper Relationship with Christ

Number four, the final one, and what we're going to dive into a little bit deeper next week.

Reprioritize your life towards a deeper relationship with Christ.

Reprioritize your life. His ways are better than our ways.

Everything you do with your life is an act of worship to God. Everything. Everything you do.

When you smile and wave at somebody when they cut you off, guess what? That means something. When you disagree with somebody, but you amicably come to a situation where you're like, you know what? Let's talk about this. Let's discuss this. Or you just shut up and walk away. I'm bad at that sometimes too, but sometimes that's what it means is, you know what? Just keep your mouth shut and just go on.

Not everybody needs to be corrected all the time. Everything we do is an act of worship to God. Romans 12.1 says that, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Or as the NLT puts that last part, this is truly the way to worship Him.

Everything we do is worship. Everything.

If we think that this right here is the epitome of what worship should look like, we sing a couple songs and we listen to somebody talk about the Bible and how the Bible should apply to our lives. Do you realize that I did the math on it the other day? Actually, Devin and I were talking on the phone and I did the math on it.

The 100-Hour Week and a Preview of Next Week

There's 168 hours in a day or in a week, not in a day, goodness. There are some days that that wouldn't be a terrible thing, but 168 hours in a week. Now, if you take out Sunday or your Sabbath day and then you are a healthy person and you get eight hours of sleep every night, which I don't, but if

you take all of that out, you hit roughly 100, roughly around 100. For a good clean number, we'll call it 100 hours, waking hours in a week.

And you spend one of them here. One of them. In a worship setting. Sunday school doesn't count. We're going to not include Sunday school, but just in a worship setting, one hour out of 100 of your waking hours you spend in church. If I came to you and said, hey, I've got \$100. I want to split it with you. When I gave you a dollar, how disappointed would you be? I split it with you. I've shared it with you, but it's 1%. We need to be living 100%. If you can't do 100%, we need to be aiming for 95 to 99, but we need to be living our life 100% of the time in worship to God. So next week, we're going to talk about that. Next week, we're going to talk about what is worship? What is worship? What does that mean on a day-to-day basis? What does that mean on a Tuesday afternoon when you're walking around the grocery store? Because guess what? You can worship God in that time, and that doesn't mean you've got your phone blaring Christian rock or Christian music in some sort of way. No, that's the way that you live, the way that you carry yourself, and the way that you react to people is worship. So next week, that's what we're going to talk about. But that's really important important because that is what builds our testimony. Contentment is what builds on our testimony. As we talked about at Sunday school this morning, some of those people that call themselves Christians and are some of the most miserable, complaining, just awful people to be around, but they call themselves Christians, like, are you content? Because the Bible tells us to be godly with contentment.

Closing Challenge

So I just wanted to share that with you guys. I wanted you guys, because I, that has been something that has been working on me a lot lately, but that is something that I feel like every Christian needs to know because it's so easy to look around the world and be discontent with where it is. It's so easy to look around and be discontent with somebody because they're doing something that we wouldn't necessarily do.

Be content. Let's work on being more content with where we are, but let's always keep striving towards being in a deeper relationship with God also. Father, we thank you.

Closing Prayer

We thank you again for your word. Father, we love you. Father, we love coming and just being in your presence, sitting at the throne of grace, and Father, just understanding that the fact that each and every one of us is here is a gift from you. the fact that each and every one of us is able to gather here

and openly talk about you is a privilege and a gift from you. So, Father, just help us as we go through life to just realize that a lot of times what we think things should look like and what you will them to look like are completely different.

So, Father, help us to align our lives to your will.

Father, we thank you again for your word. Father, we thank you for the ability, the privilege that it is to be able to come to you, to kneel down at your feet and just talk to you.

Father, help us rest in the sovereignty of who you are. Help us to just be willing to just rest in that.

Help us to build a deeper faith and a deeper relationship with you.

And, Father, we just thank you again for the gift of Jesus, the sacrifice that he made for our salvation.

And, Father, we ask all of these things in his name.

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