

Rev. 21: 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

The story has often been told about the little girl who was reprimanded by her grandfather for whistling as she ran through the house on Sunday. Feeling rather sad and dejected, almost as though she had been spanked, she left the house, walked down the lane to pasture and climbed up on the gate. As he sat there thinking, an old mule came up and put his head up to her. She patted him and said, "You're a nice mule." She then rubbed his ears and said, "You sure do have long ears." Then she stroked his nose and said, "And you sure do have a long face. You must be a good Christian like Grandpa."



It is sad to see so many unhappy, anxious Christians.  
Many Christians are like Martha, "worried and troubled" about carnal things (Luke 8:14)  
The true Christian can enjoy a supreme happiness regardless of his plight in this world.

**This lesson will discuss some of the factors that contribute to a Christian's happiness, some of those things upon his happiness rests.**

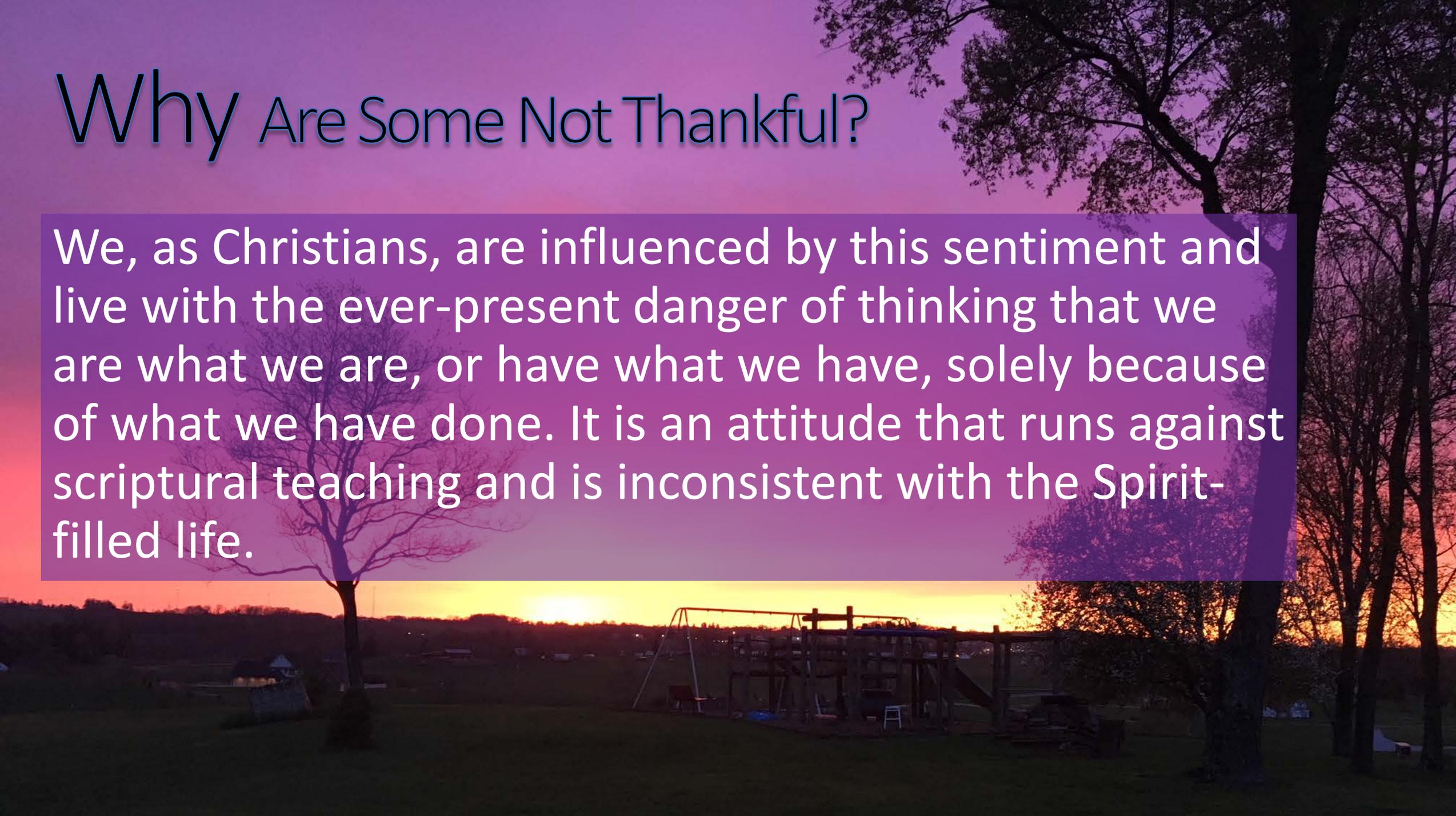


*4 Keys to a Christians  
Happiness!*

- **Thankful Heart**
- **Content**
- **Carefree Attitude**
- **Heaven Dreamer**

# Why Are Some Not Thankful?

We, as Christians, are influenced by this sentiment and live with the ever-present danger of thinking that we are what we are, or have what we have, solely because of what we have done. It is an attitude that runs against scriptural teaching and is inconsistent with the Spirit-filled life.



# Why Are Some Not Thankful?

- Because of pride

- “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened” (Rom. 1:21)
- Rather than admitting and submitting, they displaced God and substituted vain speculations (cf. Nabal to David 1 Sam. 25:2-21)

- Because of no love

- men often love as much as they are thankful (cf. Rom. 1:30, 31)

- Because of thoughtlessness

- If you want to help yourself, help someone else

# How To Express Our Thanks

- through song

- “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name” (Heb. 13:15; Ps. 107:22)
- “I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being” (Ps. 104:33)
- “It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High” (Ps. 92:1)

# How To Express Our Thanks

- through prayer

- “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Phil. 4:6)

- by obeying

- Rom. 6:16

- “16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

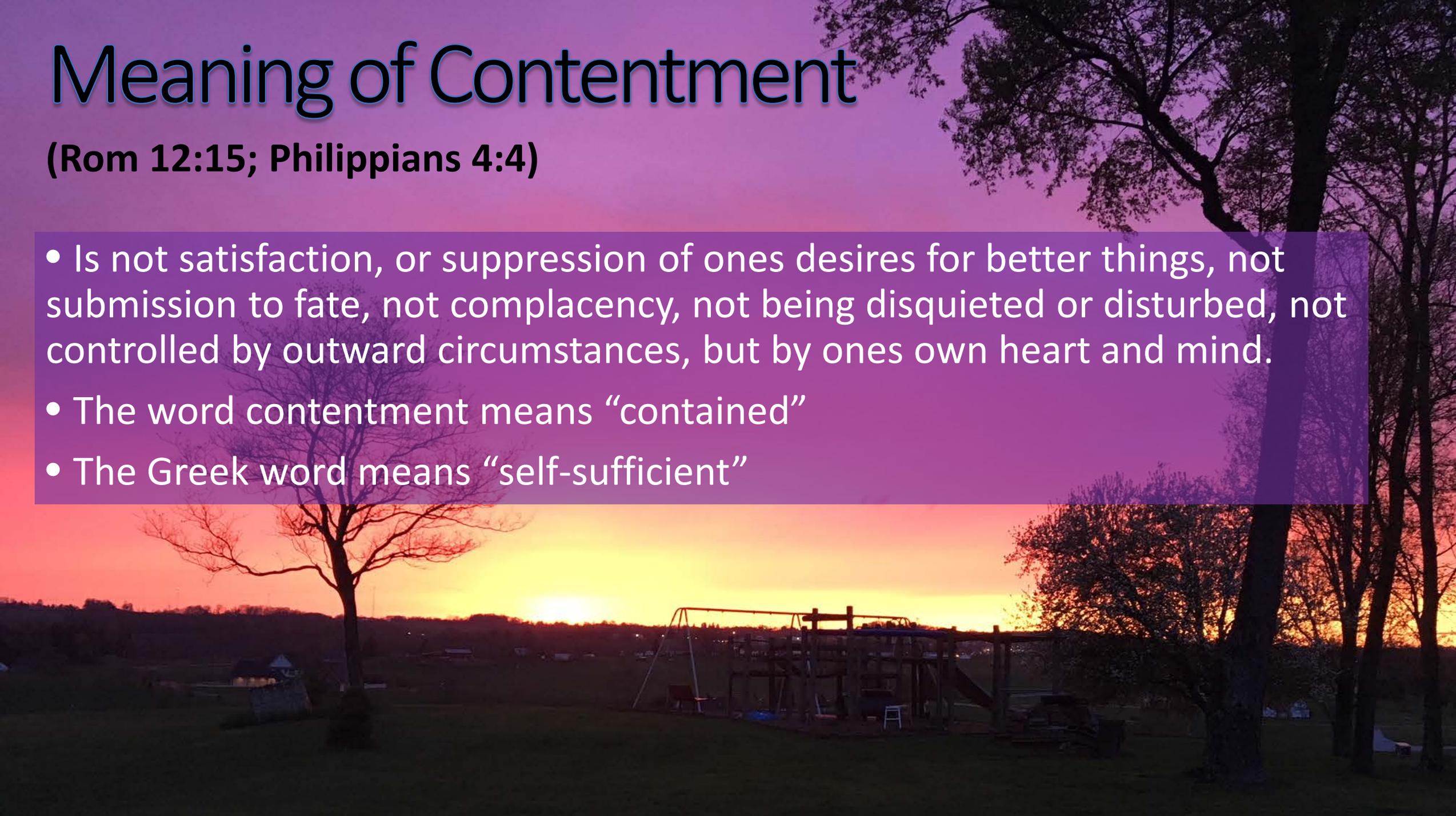
# Thanks In Everything

- “in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”  
(1 Thess. 5:18)
  - which should tell us why the Christian should be cautious and opposed to “murmuring” over adversity (cf. Job 1:21)
  - “Do all things without complaining and disputing” (Phil. 2:14)
- thanklessness produces unhappiness
  - thankfulness produces greater appreciation and spurs greater service

# Meaning of Contentment

(Rom 12:15; Philippians 4:4)

- Is not satisfaction, or suppression of ones desires for better things, not submission to fate, not complacency, not being disquieted or disturbed, not controlled by outward circumstances, but by ones own heart and mind.
- The word contentment means “contained”
- The Greek word means “self-sufficient”



# Meaning of Contentment

(Rom 12:15; Philippians 4:4)

- Christian may not be satisfied with every aspect of his life.
  - As a farmer he may try to produce more crops
  - As a business he may try to grow his business
- Contentment does not mean that one is satisfied with the status quo
  - In Christ he has learned to be content regardless of whatever state he is in, prosperity or want. (Phil. 4:11-12)
  - Godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Tim. 6:6)
  - Where one's treasure is that is where his heart will be (Matt. 6:19-21)
- The Christian can be content because he knows His Lord will never leave nor forsake him. (Heb. 13:5)

# Paul's Contentment

(Acts 16:16-24; Philippians 1:3-11)

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

- 39 stripes – 5 times
- Beaten with rods – 3 times
- Stoned
- Shipwreck – 3 times
- Night and day in the deep
- Journeys, perils of waters, robbers, countrymen, Gentiles, city, wilderness, sea, false brethren
- Weariness and Toil, Sleeplessness Often
- Hunger and Thirst, Fastings Often
- Cold and Nakedness
- Daily Deep concern for the Churches

# Carefree Attitude

- Something in us wants to believe life should be problem-free. It's a great dream, but when we don't get what we want right away we're prone to grumbling, blaming someone, taking offense or sulking away in our own private world.
- The Bible says we'll have difficulties in life. In fact, the reason we're here is to overcome them. The good works God prepared before we were born for us to walk in isn't a cake walk, it's a life of overcoming! Jesus put it, "In this life you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

# Carefree Attitude

• Jesus also said: “By your patient endurance, you will gain your souls.” Luke 21:19 God wants us to gain our souls. The Greek word for “soul” is psuche, from which we get words like psyche and psychology. The word literally means “to breathe or blow” and refers to the breath of God filling us with life which produces a **positive, overcoming attitude**. By learning not only to endure the problems of life but to face them positively, we gain ourselves even if we can’t solve a problem right away.

# Carefree Attitude

- So, learn to be vigilant when problems arise. There's the problem, and then there's what rises up in us to address the problem. Take time to breathe before reacting and ask God for His perspective and strength to deal with the problem.
- Learning to call problems “**challenges**” and “**opportunities**” is a good place to start. Try saying it outloud, even if it sounds funny—especially if a problem is very difficult. Hearing our own positive self-talk reminds us God is with us always, and His plan is always to prosper us, give us hope and lead us into a better future. Jeremiah 29:11 **The best is yet to come!**



# Heaven Dreamer

**Colossians 3:2 - Set your affection on things above,  
not on things on the earth.**

# Heaven Dreamers

Matthew 18:3 (KJV)

<sup>3</sup> And said, Verily I say unto you,  
Except ye be converted, and become  
as little children, ye shall not enter  
into the kingdom of heaven.

Ephesians 3:20-21 - Now unto him that is able  
to do exceeding abundantly above all that we  
ask or think, according to the power that  
worketh in us,

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath  
not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered  
into the heart of man, the things which God  
hath prepared for them that love him.



# Some People are not Heaven Dreamers

- Peter wrote about those who could, and those who couldn't see afar off; in other words ,who were not heaven dreamers. (2 Pet. 1:3-9)

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 **For if these things be in you, and abound**, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But **he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off**, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

**Be Thankful to God!**



Be Content with  
what you have!



**Don't Worry  
about things in  
this life!**



# Daydream about Heaven!

