



**SERVICE TIMES:**

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
5:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

**ELDERS:**

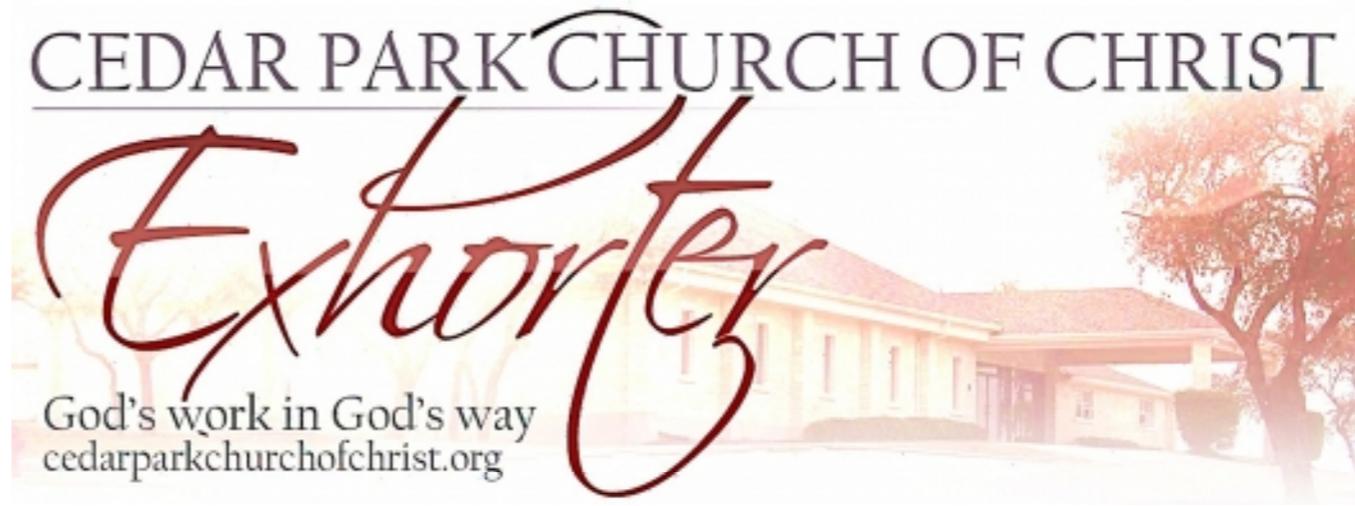
Todd Cox Jimmy Griffith  
John Smith Bryan Tacker

**DEACONS:**

Derek Anderson Travis Everett  
Ryan Griffith Dan Harbin  
Craig Hecht Danny Meek  
Phil Parker Jason Stannard  
Travis Starling Steve Turquette

**EVANGELIST**

Paul White



Nov 17, 2019

**Contentment**

Did you know that Disneyland’s nickname is “The Happiest Place on Earth”? I’ve experienced Disneyland recently, and I believe it! You can just lose yourself in one happy experience after another, each one better than the last. As a kid (or as an adult), did you ever fantasize if you could just live there forever? Every day you’d wake up there, never having to leave the “happiest place” to come home.

But that’s not reality. Unfortunately, at some point you do have to come home. It’s back to the daily grind, the meetings and the office politics. Back to the doctors’ appointments, the errands to run, and the cares and concerns you forgot about, while you were on vacation.

It makes you think: Is that the best we can do in life? Just a momentary escape from our circumstances? The Bible tells us we can have much, much more.

*"I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere*

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*and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." [Phil 4:10-13]*

The Apostle Paul tells us, that we can be content despite our circumstances. You don't have to be at Disneyland to be happy; in fact, no matter what is going on around us, we can have contentment. This is a completely bizarre notion to those in the world. They are looking for joy in their circumstances, not despite their circumstances. They think they can find contentment in wealth, or hedonism, or gluttony. They are looking for an eternal Disneyland, but we're looking for the "peace that passes all understanding," as Paul states a few verses earlier in verse 7. This peace is experienced by Christians not just in good times, but also in lean times, or in sickness, or on their deathbed. The world looks at this and laughs, because they don't understand. They lack the Christian's eternal perspective on life.

And this peace is not something that comes automatically for Christians, either. You don't emerge from the baptistry with this all figured out. Paul said, "I have learned" to be content. I suspect for most of us, this isn't entirely figured out yet, but we're getting there.

One aspect of contentment, that is hard for many to learn, is how to be content with the things they currently have. Most worldly people think that the quick fix to discontentment is wealth. I've heard it said, that "money is the great lubricant." The analogy fits, since money does make certain things easy. There are not many problems in this world, that you can't solve by throwing enough money at it. Think of all the leisure time you could have by outsourcing all of your responsibilities. Wouldn't that be the life? But the Bible teaches that money doesn't bring true contentment, in fact, the love of money brings harm, destruction, and sorrow:

*"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root*

*of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." [1Tim 6:6-10, NKJV]*

True riches (gain) is godliness with contentment. Contentment, in this passage, means being happy with having only those things which you need, like food and clothes. If your happiness depends on having "uncertain riches" beyond those things which you need for life, then how can that happiness last? We have all seen too many people who, although they are rich, are unsatisfied with what they have. "He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver" (Eccl 5:10). Wealth is surely not the answer.

For those of us, who do have more than the bare essentials, we have to live in such a way that doesn't misplace our hope and happiness in those riches. The Bible teaches us, that we shouldn't trust in "uncertain riches" but be rich towards God.

*"Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. [Let them] do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." [1Tim 6:17-19, NKJV]*

True happiness is not an eternal Disneyland on Earth, but eternal life in heaven with the Father. Our contentment can persist despite our circumstances, because we realize that this world is not our home, and any "storing up" that we do, should be storing up of those "treasures in heaven."

Woe to us if we miss out on Heaven, because if we miss Heaven, I suppose Disneyland really is as good as it gets!

- Dan Harbin



*Any man or woman who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven. - A.W. Tozer*