



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God
God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Scripture

Reflections on Contentment.

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 37:16 Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked.

Proverbs 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

Proverbs 28:6 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

Isaiah 26:3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Matthew 6:25-26 Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?
²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Luke 12:15 [Jesus] said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

John 3:27 A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

II Corinthians 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Philippians 4:12-13 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:19-20 My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

I Timothy 6:6-11 But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. ¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

Hebrews 13:5-6 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”⁶ So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Father, I Know That All My Life is Portioned Out For Me

Old English hymn that focuses on contentment.

Father, I know that all my life is portioned out for me,
And the changes that are sure to come I do not fear to see;
But I ask Thee for a present mind intent on pleasing Thee.

I would not have the restless will that hurries to and fro,
Seeking for some great thing to do or secret thing to know;
I would be treated as a child, and guided where I go.

So I ask Thee for the daily strength, to none that ask denied,
And a mind to blend with outward life while keeping at Thy side;
Content to fill a little space, if Thou be glorified.

And if some things I do not ask in my cup of blessing be,
I would have my spirit filled the more with grateful love to Thee,
More careful, not to serve Thee much, but to please Thee perfectly.

In a service which Thy will appoints there are no bonds for me;
For my inmost heart is taught “the truth” that makes Thy children “free”
And a life of self-renouncing love is a life of liberty.

(“Father, I Know That All My Life” words by Anna Letitia Waring, 1850, Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, how true it is, but how quickly we forget you have blessed us already with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. And you are our shepherd who guards us and keeps us and fulfils every need so that we do not want.

But so often we struggle to be content, we do want, we want more, we want what they have, and we don’t want what we have. Yet in Christ we have enough, more than enough, everything we need to live a life of faith and godliness.

This world tugs at our heart’s desires making us want temporal and trivial things, things that draw our hearts away from being satisfied with you and in you. Forgive us for stressing over what we don’t have. Draw our eyes away from the world, the flesh and the devil, from worthless idols that can’t satisfy for eternity.

Father, thank you especially for all those prayers you have not answered, for not giving us all those things we asked for or thought we needed so much. We thought we were asking for a fish when it was actually a snake, but we didn’t know. You know us perfectly well and you know exactly what we need and what we can handle. Deliver us from envy and from coveting and from thinking life consists in our abundance of things.

By your Spirit, give us a hunger and thirst for you. Fill us with joy and satisfaction and contentment with what you have given us and most of with Christ Himself. You are faithful and perfect and wise and good, we can trust you. Thank you for the rich inheritance that awaits us.