

“I Will Follow Christ”
1 Corinthians 4:9-13

I. Because they were content with Christ, the Apostles were willing to be a spectacle to the world (vs. 9-13).

- A. The Apostles were willing to sacrifice their image before men.
- B. The Apostles were willing to sacrifice basic needs.
- C. The Apostles were willing to do whatever it took to follow Christ.

(Proverbs 14:30; Ezekiel 4:4-6, 12; Mark 1:6; Philippians 3:7-10; Hebrews 11:32-38)

II. Because Christ was their first love, the Apostles were content with knowing Christ.

- A. Contentment comes from trusting the Lord with your life.
- B. Contentment has to be learned.
- C. Contentment comes from being grateful for what God has given us.
- D. Contentment only comes from being in Christ.

(2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Philippians 4:6-7, 11-13)

Scripture References and Notes

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹²I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Proverbs 14:30

A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Ezekiel 4:4-6, 12

⁴“As for you, lie down on your left side and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel on it; you shall bear their iniquity for the number of days that you lie on it. ⁵For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity, three hundred and ninety days; thus you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. ⁶When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, *but* on your right side and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year. ¹²You shall eat it as a barley cake, having baked *it* in their sight over human dung.”

Ezekiel 24:15-16

¹⁵And the word of the LORD came to me saying, ¹⁶“Son of man, behold, I am about to take from you the desire of your eyes with a blow; but you shall not mourn and you shall not weep, and your tears shall not come.

Mark 1:6

John was clothed with camel’s hair and *wore* a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

Hebrews 11:32-38

³²And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of righteousness*, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; ³⁶and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated ³⁸(*men* of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

scum

περικόθαρμα (perikatharma)

- refuse, offscouring, filth.
- properly, off-scouring (refuse); "left-overs," rejected after a thorough cleansing; (figuratively) an *outcast*, viewed as scummy residue (used only in 1 Cor 4:13).
- ("rubbish") describes someone as "the filth of the world, representing 'the most abject and despicable men' (Grimm-Thayer) – the scum or rubbish of humanity" (Vine, Unger, White, *NT*, 237).

dregs

περίψημα (peripséma)

- scrapings, offscourings, wiped-off filth.

Philippians 3:7-10

⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (KJV)

⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take

pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.