



October 8, 2017

Psalm 120 – 134

“The Pilgrim’s Progress – Part 4”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Today’s message is Pastor Gary’s final teaching in the Pilgrim’s Progress series, and he teaches on the following themes: finding satisfaction and contentment, worshiping the Lord, and keeping unity in the church.

Psalm 131

Find Your Satisfaction And Contentment In The Lord

1. Pastor Gary referred to a recent global study, which indicates that if a person has a roof over their head and at least one meal a day, that person would be wealthier than 93% of the world’s population, and if a person has one pair of shoes, they would be better off than 75% of the world’s population!
2. Today, the average American household has approximately \$16,000.00 of credit card debt, which is one way of demonstrating the fact that many people live discontented lives, because they have to buy the latest and greatest thing with the hope that their purchase will make them happy.
3. Pastor Gary said: “[The] fact of the matter is that the greatest satisfaction and contentment in our lives will not come from power, prestige, or even people, but it will come from a personal relationship with the Lord... [The] deepest longings of our souls will only be ultimately and completely fulfilled by the Lord.”
4. **Psalm 131:2** – *“... I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me.”*
 - a. The Bible clearly teaches that God has no gender, being neither male nor female.

- b. The Bible teaches that God is seen as father, however, there are a few Scriptural references in which God is seen as having characteristics like a mother, in that he was loving, caring and nurturing.
 - c. Pastor Gary said: “A nursing child wants mommy for food and comfort, but a weaned child wants mommy just for who she is, for her love and closeness. And that’s what David [was] saying: ‘I don’t want God for what he can give to me; I have found a place in my heart where I love God just for who [he] is.’ ”
5. [Psalm 46:10](#) - *“Be still and know that I am God...”*
 6. [Psalm 34:8](#) - *“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.”*
 7. [Psalm 37:7](#) - *“Be still before the LORD...”*

Psalm 132

Make The Worship Of The Lord Central To Your Life

8. Many Bible scholars believe that Solomon wrote this psalm, because Solomon quoted from this psalm when he dedicated the Temple.¹
9. Pastor Gary said: “Whoever was inspired by the Spirit to write this, one thing is clear, it expresses about David his heart for the worship of God. David loved to worship the Lord, and he made it his undying goal to [build the] Temple of God; a dwelling place for the Lord.”
10. [Psalm 132:3-5](#) - *“I will not enter my house or go to my bed - I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids, till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.”*
11. Pastor Gary said: “David was a shepherd, a warrior, and a king, but David was always a worshiper... He had it in his heart to always exalt God and to praise his name and to make sure that God was not only personally exalted but nationally exalted. When he became king, he made it a part of the national disposition of Israel; we will worship God, we will give him glory, we will exalt his name.”
12. The Bible teaches us that there are three primary ways we can worship God:
 - a. Singing
 - i. [Psalm 132:9](#) - *“... may your saints sing for joy.”*

¹ [2 Chronicles 6:12-42](#)

- ii. Worshiping and singing praise to the Lord is not the “warm-up act,” that precedes the teaching time; it’s an important time to get our heart right before we can understand and receive the Word of God!
 - iii. **Psalm 134:2** - *“Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.”*
 - iv. **Psalm 96:1-2** - *“Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.”*
 - v. **Psalm 47:6** - *“Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.”*
 - vi. There are more than 400 references in the Bible concerning singing to God, and 50 of those references are direct commands to sing to God!
 - vii. **Psalm 98:4** - *“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.”* (KJV - King James Version)
- b. Living
- i. **Romans 12:1** - *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”*
 - ii. **Romans 6:13** - *“Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.”*
 - iii. Pastor Gary said: “In other words, when you and I live lives of purity and holiness before God; it brings worship to God.”
- c. Giving
- i. **Philippians 4:18-19** - *“I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*
 - ii. Pastor Gary said: “You see, one of the qualities and characteristics of God is that he’s generous... And, to the degree that we are generous, we actually then show ourselves in the same character and nature as the Lord... You can’t out give God. God’s people will never [beg] for bread. ² God always takes care of us, and [he] will meet all of our needs. The Bible teaches the principle of tithing, which is to give a tenth [of our gross income] ... It’s an opportunity of grace... It is better in my life... when I give God a tenth, I am better

² **Psalm 37:25** - *“I [David] was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread.”*

off living off the 90%, than when I keep 100% and try to do it all myself.”

Psalm 133

Keep The Unity Of The Spirit In The Church

13. The theme of this psalm is unity.
14. **Ephesians 4:3** - *“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*
15. Pastor Gary said: “A spirit of unity comes from God. He gives us unity, but we must keep what he has given us. [Keeping unity] is on us... Why is that he commands us in this way? ... Because, what it implies to us is that unity does not come naturally [nor] does it come comfortably. We have to work at this. And why do we have to work at this? Because we have a lot of differences among us, [but] the differences among us add to the richness of the body of Christ [i.e. the Church] ... But because of the diversity we have to make sure we maintain unity. Because, don't you know that Satan loves to bring division [into] the body of Christ, and he will exploit our differences to his advantage wherever and whenever possible. Be they differences along gender lines or racial lines or economic lines or education lines or [denominational] lines... [Satan] knows that we are less capable of advancing the Kingdom [of God] when we are divided than when we are united.”
16. **Luke 11:17** - *“Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: ‘Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.’ ”*
17. **Galatians 3:28** - *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*
18. Pastor Gary said: “[Unfortunately], there is this big ecumenical movement today, which wants to unite everybody and everything under one banner; the banner of love... I'm not about that. There are some churches and some organizations that I can't link arms with because of their unbiblical stance on matters that are important.”
19. “It's better to be divided by the truth than to be united in error.” - Charles H. Spurgeon
20. Pastor Gary said: “What I am talking about is [that] we need to put aside our petty differences, and our racial prejudices, and our selfish preferences. And we

need to do [all of that] for the sake of unity in the church and [for] the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

21. David’s reference to *“oil running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down upon the collar of his robes,”* indicates the saturating effect of unity.
22. **Romans 12:18** – *“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”*
23. David’s reference to the *“dew of [Mount] Hermon... falling on Mount Zion,”* indicates the far-reaching nature of unity, because Mount Zion (approximately 2,600 ft.) and Mount Hermon (in Northern Israel past the Golan Heights, is the highest mountain in Israel) are separated by a distance of nearly 200 miles!
24. **John 17:23b** – *“May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*
25. Pastor Gary said: “Unity is not something we need to keep just for the sake of Cornerstone Chapel, [even] though that’s important; unity is something that we need to keep for the sake of the Gospel that advances around the world. Because the Gospel needs to be advanced [by] people who are unified around the central person of Jesus Christ. [We] need to testify of Jesus, and if we are bickering, and if we’re fighting, and we are backstabbing and backbiting, and all of this kind of stuff, how in the world can we testify of Christ? So, unity is important because it is far reaching... May our unity have a global impact because people can see Jesus Christ in us.”
26. **John 13:35** – *“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Read **Psalm 131**.
2. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s remarks about satisfaction and contentment. (See #3 above)
3. What are some of the ways your relationship with the Lord has changed your perspective on living a content life?
4. Read and discuss **Psalm 34:8**.

5. Read [Psalm 132](#).
6. Spend time reading the Scriptures and talking about the three ways we worship God. (See #12 above)
7. How would you describe your level of actively worshiping the Lord in singing?
8. What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit has changed you so that you are now living a life that is more Christ-like in holiness and purity?
9. Share examples of the ways the Holy Spirit has led you to be a generous person?
10. Read Psalm [133](#).
11. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about the importance of maintaining unity in the church. (See #15 above)
12. How would you describe unity our church and unity among local churches?
13. Read Psalm [134](#) and close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).