

# Sermon Discussion Guide

November 20, 2011



1. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-10. Make a list of all the things that Solomon did or accumulated. Did he find contentment? Read Ecclesiastes 2:11.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 4:11-13 and 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Make a list of all the struggles Paul had to endure. Did he find contentment? Read Philippians 4:11-12.
3. Pastor Brown gave three reasons why Paul lived a life of contentment:

## Paul Focused on Christ

*Read Philippians 2:11, Galatians 2:20 and Acts 20:24*

*How did Paul's life reflect a focus on Christ?*

*What does this quote from David Platt say about focusing on Christ and contentment?*

*When we risk our lives to run after Christ, we discover the safety that is found only in his sovereignty, the security that is found only in his love, and the satisfaction that is found only in his presence. This is the eternally great reward, and we would be foolish to settle for anything else. Radical*

*Where do people in our culture look for safety, security and satisfaction?*

*Read Philippians 1:12-14. Why was Paul content even in prison?*

## Paul Trusted in Christ

*Read Philippians 4:13, and Philippians 4:19*

*How did Paul's life reflect trust in Christ?*

*What does this quote from David Platt say about trusting in Christ?*

*When God tells us to give extravagantly, we can trust him to do the same in our lives. And this is really the core issue of it all. Do we trust him? Do we trust Jesus when he tells us to give radically for the sake of the poor... do we trust him to provide for us when we begin using the resources he had given us to provide for others? Do we trust him to know what is best for our lives, our families and our financial futures? Radical*

*Pastor Brown said, "Sometimes we are hesitant to give because we have a hard time trusting that God will keep promise to provide." Do you agree? Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8.*

## Paul Surrendered to Christ

*Read Philippians 4:7-8,*

*How did Paul's life reflect surrender to Christ?*

*What can we learn from this example of John Wesley?*

*In 1731 he began to limit his expenses so that he would have more money to give to the poor. At one point he was making equivalent of \$160,000 a year, but was living on equivalent of \$20,000. He gave the rest away. When he died in 1791 at the age of 87 the only money mentioned in his will was the coins to be found in his pockets and dresser.*

4. Why is giving generously and sacrificially an antidote to the materialism that is rampant in the church today?
5. Do you agree with this comment from Martin Luther?

*There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the conversion of the mind, and the conversion of the purse.*