

# Amazing Grace

Bible Study Fellowship

## Contentment



J. Michael Schroeder

Amazing Grace Bible Study Fellowship is a non-denominational church fellowship dedicated to the publishing of the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16), and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery of Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 3:3. Our goal is to study the Bible in accordance with 2 Timothy 2:15, in order to become established in the truth of it according to Romans 1:11; to the end that we might come into conformity with the will of God for our lives according to Romans 12:3.

Amazing Grace Bible Study Fellowship  
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**Contentment in a Discontented World**  
” **Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me**” Phil 4:11-12

The economic downturn we now find ourselves in has had an affect on most of us, but some more so than others, particularly those among us who find themselves out of work and facing hardships that were unfathomable just a few short years ago. Yet the apostle tells us in the above passage that we are to be content in this state.

Be content in a state of poverty? Ha! Is he kidding, or what?

This is, doubtless, one of the most daunting challenges of the Christian life. For we live in a culture where impoverishment and abasement is—even in Christian circles—considered to be a curse; something to be avoided at all costs.

1

But for those who have experienced both abasement and abundance in their lives, and most of us have, it is more often than not abundance which is the more difficult state in which to navigate. Charles Spurgeon well states the problem:

“There are many who know ‘how to be abased’ who have not learned ‘how to abound.’ When they are set upon the top of a pinnacle their heads grow dizzy, and they are ready to fall. The Christian far oftener disgraces his profession in prosperity than in adversity. It is a dangerous thing to be prosperous. The crucible of adversity is a less severe trial to the Christian than the fining-pot of prosperity. Oh, what leanness of soul and neglect of spiritual things have been brought on through the very mercies and bounties of God! Yet this is not a matter of necessity, for the apostle tells us that he knew how to abound. When he had much he knew how to use it. Abundant grace enabled him to bear abundant prosperity.

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