

Calvary Bible Church  
WOMEN'S SUMMER CONFERENCE



“How happy are they who can resign all to him,  
see his hand in every dispensation, and believe  
that he chooses better for them than they  
possibly could for themselves.”  
– John Newton

**AUGUST 5, 2017**



# SCHEDULE

Registration  
8:30 AM

Session 1  
9:00 – 10:30 AM  
The Foundation of Contentment:  
The Character of God

Snack Break  
10:30 – 11:00 AM

Session 2  
11:00 – 12:30 PM  
The Struggle for Contentment:  
The Urge for Independence

Lunch  
12:30 – 1:30 PM

Session 3  
1:30 – 3:00 PM  
The Cultivation of Contentment:  
The Fruit of the Gospel



## Session 1: THE FOUNDATION OF CONTENTMENT: THE CHARACTER OF GOD

- A. GOD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT.** He possesses within His own life as God everything that is good.

Acts 17:24-25

Psalm 50:7-15

- B. GOD IS SOVEREIGN.** God plans and carries out His perfect will, over the smallest and largest parts of creation fully, and He does so without failure or defeat.

Daniel 4:30-37

Isaiah 45:6b-7

- C. GOD IS ALL-KNOWING, OR OMNISCIENT, AND ALL-WISE.** He knows all things; He understands all things perfectly, and He uses this complete knowledge in the best ways.

Psalm 147:5

Isaiah 40:13-14

Psalm 131:1-2

it. And although I don't know you at all, I'm fairly sure you have CCS, too. That's not meant to sound rude. It's just that I've rarely met a woman who doesn't struggle with it." This book is about how to spot this syndrome and its effects in your life; the view of life that causes it; how the gospel treats it; and how you can move beyond it to live a life of true, lasting contentment.

### 4. **NEW MORNING MERCIES** BY PAUL DAVID TRIPP

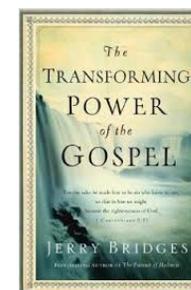
Mornings can be tough. Sometimes, a hearty breakfast and strong cup of coffee just aren't enough. Offering more than a rush of caffeine, best-selling author Paul David Tripp wants to energize you with the most potent encouragement imaginable: the gospel. Forget "behavior modification" or feel-good aphorisms. Tripp knows that what we really need is an encounter with the living God. Then we'll be prepared to trust in God's goodness, rely on his grace, and live for his glory each and every day.



### 5. **THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE GOSPEL** BY JERRY BRIDGES

In *The Transforming Power of the Gospel*, Bridges guides you through a thorough examination of:

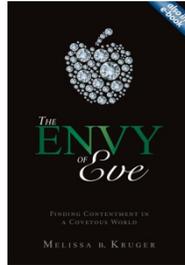
1. What the biblical meaning of grace is and how it applies to your life
2. How Jesus' work in His life and death applies to the believer in justification and adoption
3. Why basic spiritual disciplines are necessary for spiritual growth
4. What role the Holy Spirit plays in both definitive and progressive sanctification



## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

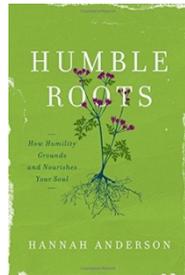
### 1. **THE ENVY OF EVE BY MELISSA KRUGER**

*The Envy of Eve* guides readers to understand how desires grow into covetousness and what happens when this sin takes power in our hearts. Covetousness chokes out the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, allowing discontentment to bloom. The key to overcoming is to get to the root of our problem: unbelief—a mistrust of God's sovereignty and goodness. An ideal resource for deeper study or group discussion.



### 2. **HUMBLE ROOTS BY HANNAH ANDERSON**

*Humble Roots* is part theology of incarnation and part stroll through the fields and forest. Anchored in the teaching of Jesus, Anderson explores how cultivating humility—not scheduling, strict boundaries, or increased productivity—leads to peace. Lessons about soil preparation, sour mulch, and grapevine blights reveal the truth about our dependence on God, finding rest, and fighting discontentment. Learn humility from the lilies of the field and from the One who is humility Himself. Remember who you are and Who you are not, and rediscover the rest that comes from belonging to Him.



### 3. **COMPARED TO HER BY SOPHIE DEWITT**

"I am a recovering Compulsive Comparison Syndrome sufferer. It causes me to feel envy, despair, pride and superiority. It cuts away at my relationship with God, with my loved ones, and with myself. It has promised me contentment, and yet robbed me of

### D. **GOD IS LOVE, AND HE GIVES GOOD GIFTS.**

I John 4:10

Romans 8:32

James 1:17

Matthew 7:11

Cycle of Contentment:

We need – God provides – we thank Him – God is glorified

Psalm 16:5-6

E. **CONCLUSION** He knows all things; He understands all things perfectly, and He uses this complete knowledge in the best ways.

*When hard times come, and they will, let's determine to judge the hard times BY the character of God, and refuse to judge the character of God by the hard times.*

“[One of the marks of Christian maturity which a believer should seek is] an acquiescence in the Lord's will founded in a persuasion of his wisdom, holiness, sovereignty, and goodness . . . So far as we attain to this, we are secure from disappointment. Our own limited views, and short-sighted purposes and desires, may be, and will be, often over-ruled; but then our main and leading desire, that the will of the Lord may be done, must be accomplished. How highly does it become us, both as creatures and as sinners, to submit to the appointments of our Maker! And how necessary is it to our peace! This great attainment is too often unthought of, and over-looked; we are prone to fix our attention upon the second causes and immediate instruments of events; forgetting that whatever befalls us is according to his purpose, and therefore must be right and seasonable in itself, and shall in the issue be productive of good. From hence arise impatience, resentment, and secret repinings [i.e., complainings] which are not only sinful, but tormenting; whereas, if all things are in his hand, if the very hairs of our head are numbered; if every event, great and small, is under the direction of his providence and purpose; and if he has a wise, holy, and gracious end in view, to which everything that happens is subordinate and subservient;--then we have nothing to do, but with patience and humility to follow as he leads, and cheerfully to expect a happy issue . . . How happy are they who can resign all to him, see his hand in every dispensation, and believe that he chooses better for them than they possibly could for themselves.”

From *Letters of John Newton* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1960), 137.

Hebrews 13:5-6

*Contentment is being satisfied in God, His character, His works, and His ways.*

5. One of the biggest challenges to cultivating contentment occurs when someone else gets an opportunity we long for, is gifted in a way we aren't, or receives something we strongly desire, but haven't received. Look up the following passages and make notes of God's perspective on these challenges.

Romans 12:15

I Corinthians 12:14-26

Galatians 5:25-26

Pray and confess to God any areas of discontent of which you are aware. Ask Him for abundant grace to grow in contentment, to grow in trusting His sovereign and loving care in your life.

2. Think back over your life. What have been the biggest causes of discontent? Think through different seasons and stages. Do you see a pattern of struggle? What truths about God could you have trusted more fully during those times?

3. In our materialistic, consumerist society, it is tempting to be discontent regarding money and possessions. Look up the following passages and write summary statements of God's perspective on money.

Proverbs 30:8-9

Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Hebrews 13:5

4. In the second session, we talked about "ultimate concerns." What have you allowed to be ultimate in your life? What should be ultimate? Look up the following passages and summarize what should be our ultimate concern.

Psalms 62:5-8

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Philippians 3:7-11

## **Session 2: THE STRUGGLE FOR CONTENTMENT: THE URGE FOR INDEPENDENCE**

### **A. THE FALL OF MANKIND**

Genesis 3:1-7

### **B. THE DESIRES OF MANKIND**

1 John 2:15-17

1. The desires of the flesh

"If you're willing to sin to obtain your goal or if you sin when you don't get what you want, then your desire has taken God's place and you're functioning as an idolater."

(Elyse Fitzpatrick, *Idols of the Heart*, p. 25)

2. The desires of the eyes

3. Pride in possessions

1 Corinthians 4:7

James 4:1-4

## C. THE TRANSFORMATION OF OUR DESIRES

... the cravings of the human heart can be changed ... God would have us long for Him instead. To make us truly human God must change what we want, for we must learn to want the things Jesus wanted ... The human life is a great paradox. Those who die to self, find self ... If I crave happiness, I will receive misery. If I crave to be loved, I will receive rejection. If I crave significance, I will receive futility. If I crave control, I will receive chaos. If I crave reputation, I will receive humiliation. But if I long for God and His wisdom, I will receive God and His wisdom. Along the way, sooner or later, I will also receive happiness, love, meaning, order and glory.

(David Powlison, *Dynamics of Biblical Change*)

### Matthew 7:13-14

*Intentionally cultivate dependence upon God.*

*Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept Thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to Thee to be Thine forever. Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit. Use me as Thou wilt, send me where Thou wilt, work out Thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever.*

(Betty Stam, Martyred Missionary to China)

## PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY / SELF-EXAMINATION / CONTENTMENT

Begin by praying, asking God to reveal your heart to you, by His Word and by His Spirit. Read the following verses to prepare your heart:

Psalm 51:10

Psalm 119:18

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Romans 8:26-27

- I. In the first session, we talked about four qualities, or attributes, of God that are revealed in the Bible: self-sufficiency, sovereignty, wisdom, and love. Of these four, is there one or more particularly difficult for you to believe, especially in challenging times?

Based on your answer, read the following passages that teach about this attribute, some that we looked at last night, and some additional ones. Read carefully, write out some summary statements, and pick a verse or passage to memorize and meditate on, that you may be strengthened to trust God in hard times.

**Self-sufficiency:** Psalm 50:7-15; Isaiah 66:1-2; Acts 17:24-25; Romans 11:33-36

**Sovereignty:** Psalm 115:1-3; 147:5; Job 42:2; Daniel 4:19-37; Eph 1:11

**Wisdom:** Psalm 104:24; Isaiah 40:13-14; Daniel 2:20-23; Romans 11:33-36; 1 Cor 1:18-31

**Love:** Lamentations 3:22-24; Romans 5:8; 8:32; James 1:17; 1 John 3:1-2; 4:10

**3. FOSTER GRATITUDE.**

What God gives / What God withholds.

*When you cannot see His plan, when you don't see His hand at work on your behalf, return to what you do know about His character and His purposes.*

**4. CULTIVATE A GOD-DIRECTED WORLDVIEW.**

**D. GLORY IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST**

I Corinthians 15:3-4

**5. GROW IN SELFLESS GIVING.**

*"Seldom resist a generous impulse."*

George Sweeting

**6. DEVELOP AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE.**

*"Death begins a wicked man's hell, but it puts an end to a godly man's hell."*

Thomas Watson

**7. LOOK TO CHRIST, OUR EXAMPLE.**

## Session 3: THE CULTIVATION OF CONTENTMENT: THE FRUIT OF THE GOSPEL

Specific tips for cultivating grace-wrought, God-honoring contentment:

### 1. MONITOR OUR MINDS.

Our thought life to a significant degree determines our contentment.

*E.B. Pusey's List for Fostering Contentment:*

- 1) *Allow thyself to complain of nothing, not even of the weather.*
- 2) *Never picture thyself under any circumstances in which thou art not.*
- 3) *Never compare thine own lot with that of another.*
- 4) *Never allow thyself to dwell on the wish that this or that had been, or were, otherwise than it was, or is. God Almighty loves thee better and more wisely than thou dost thyself.*
- 5) *Never dwell on the morrow. Remember that it is God's, not thine. The heaviest part of sorrow often is to look forward to it. "The Lord will provide."*

Specific Area of Temptation in Which to Monitor Our Thoughts:

Comparison - John 2:21-22; Romans 12:15; Matthew 20:1-15; I Corinthians 13:4-7

### Expectations

*"If thine eye is evil towards thy neighbor because God is good to him, it is proof that thou quarrelest with Providence . . . And if God should give to one of His children more than He gives to you, has He not a right to do what He will with His own?"*

William Plumer

### Entitlement

*"If we do not have what we desire, we have more than we deserve."*

Thomas Watson

*O Lord, I am astonished at the difference between my receivings and my deservings, between the state I am now in and my past gracelessness, between the heaven I am bound for and the hell I merit.*  
Valley of Vision, p. 12

### 2. GUARD OUR HEARTS.

Cultural consumerism / advertising / shopping, etc.