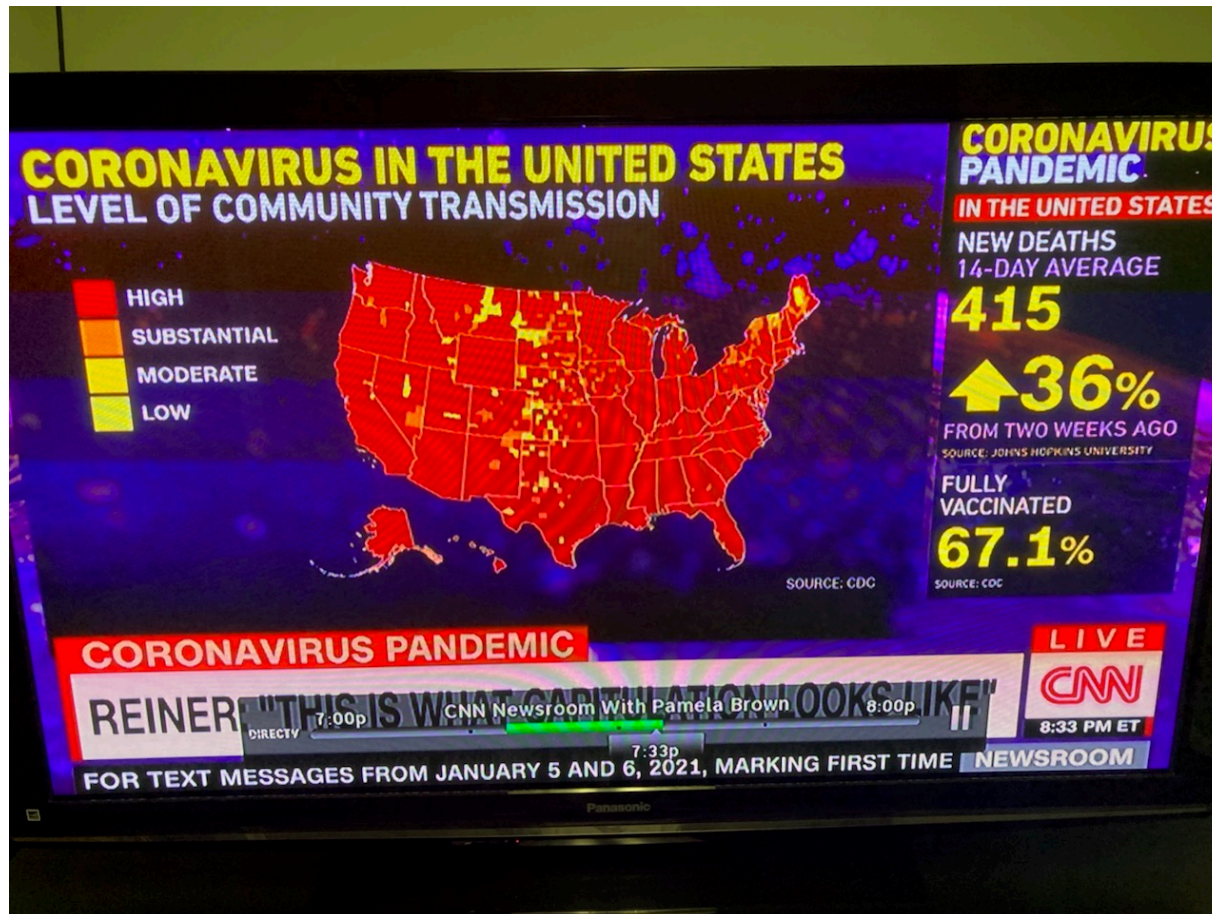


Yesterday's Covid Map July 16, 2022





**Contentment
During Covid**
1 Timothy 6:6-8

Philippians 4:11-13, N.I.V

“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty, I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Him that gives me strength.”



Contentment During Covid

- Preacher, you can't be serious! That doesn't make sense!
- Covid hasn't gone away but, in fact, is still mutating (Ba.5)
- The number of Covid cases are going up again
- New strains are being discovered that may require new vaccines for protection—a fall booster?
- This fall we may have to battle Covid 19, Influenza, and Pneumonia all in the same period of time
- Remember, the sermon title is “Contentment During Covid” not “Contentment With Covid”
- My argument is that, even with this Pandemic period in our lives, we like Paul can still be content in our present situation
- Paul says that he learned the secret to contentment. Let's see if what he learned can help us today in our present crisis

#1 The Illusion of Contentment

- Many think the cure for discontentment is to have more.
- Frankly stated: *“The more I have, the more content I will be.”*
- However the reality is: *“The more you get, the more you want”, Ecclesiastes 5:10*

*“Whoever loves money never has money enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with income.
This too is meaningless.”*

- The late wealthy magnate, John D. Rockefeller, was once asked, *“How much money is enough?”*

He replied, *“Just a little bit more.”*

- For a person who is “not content,” having more will just add to your discontentment, not help it (business owners are being arrested for stealing stimulus money that’s not theirs)

Observations

- Sometimes being content is not about money (it's a frustrating situation, or an illness that has us discontented)
- We are not satisfied with "our situation," and we think that if "our situation" changes, our contentment would improve

But Here is a Point to Consider

- Contentment doesn't come and go. It's a constant. Paul said "I have learned...to be content.... I can do all things"
- I suggest to you that Contentment is a state of being, not an emotion, and doesn't depend on our circumstances
- Our contentment depends on our relationship with Jesus
- The illusion is: "*when I get all that I want and everything is going good in my life, I'll be content*" — That's deceptive, there will always be a new difficulty coming in your life

#2 What's the "Great Gain" Part About?

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

1 Timothy 6:6-8

- To look at the context, Paul is telling Timothy in vs. 5 to watch out for teachers of false doctrine and hold on to sound doctrine
- He says in vs. 5 that one of the identifying features of false teachers is, they think that "Godliness is a means to financial gain!" (The Prosperity Gospel phenomenon is nothing new)
- One of the most prevalent beliefs in our religious world today is, the more Godly you are, ***"the more financially well off you will be!"***

- Paul makes it clear, I believe, that one (Godliness) doesn't necessarily lead to the other (financial prosperity)
- Think about this: If I believe that Godliness leads to financial gain, then I would think that the more I have, the more Godly I must be and vice versa (the less I have....)
- So how CONTENT could I be when I believe that my level of Godliness is directly related to how materially blessed I am?

What Does Godliness With Contentment Is Great Gain Mean?

- The personal satisfaction I achieve in Acquiring God's Character; Philippians 2:5-9
- The more I reflect on heavenly treasures rather than earthly ones, the more Godly I will become, Colossians 3:2-3
- 1 Timothy 6:7 says, "we brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing out of it." What we would say today is, "*he who dies with the most toys still dies!*"

Paul Says That We Need to Find Contentment in Having Basic Necessities

- Notice that Paul mentions food and clothing, 1 Timothy 6:8
- He doesn't mention transportation or even a roof over our heads
- In America we have conditioned ourselves into believing that there are certain things we've gotten used to—that we can't live without
- Discontentment is what “blurs the lines” between needs and wants
- Satellite TV's, Cable TV, New Cars are wants. Wide Screen TV's are wants. The latest I-Phone or Designer items are wants
- The Point: Having material things is not wrong; but the question is, could I still be content if I didn't have them?

Observations

- **The Pandemic has set the stage for discontentment**
- **Since COVID hit, we don't go to the malls or shopping centers as much, eat out as much, or to movie theaters as much**
- **But my point today is that we don't have to be discontent**
- **Why? Because even though we are deprived of our usual activities, these things are luxuries and not necessities (Ukrainians are being deprived of necessities)**
- **When Godliness is combined with contentment, I'm at peace when I don't get what I want, because I still have what I need**
Philippians 4:19 *"My God will supply all of my needs...."*
- **When I'm content with the basics: I will appreciate them more when I'm blessed with more. When I'm content, I thank God more.**

#3 Learn the Secret

“I know what it means to be in need, and I know what it means to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:12-13

- Many of you know what Paul had been through, 2 Cor. 11:24-28. His many difficulties could cause his discontentment
- Therefore, he wasn't just saying what he hadn't experienced
- Even though presently in prison, Paul writes to the Philippians exhorting fellow Christians to do everything without complaining, arguing, Philippians 2:14
- He talks about rejoicing in the Lord always, Philippians 4:4
- He talks about having the peace of God, Philippians 4:7

So What Did Paul Learn?

- **The Secret of contentment isn't "having it all together" and "finding a life of perfect balance" in "your situation."**
- **The Secret of contentment isn't pretending everything is okay**
- **The Secret of contentment is accepting that even though everything is not okay (living in a broken world), I will be okay because I have Jesus, Philippians 3:13-14**
- **What we choose to focus on and who we choose to focus on will determine our attitude when "*our specific situation*" or a situation like Covid is less than desirable, Hebrews 12:1-2**
- **Remember when Peter was walking on water in Matthew 14 with Jesus (what an accomplishment), but began to sink when he focused on the circumstances rather than the Savior**

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

