



FRANKLIN ROAD

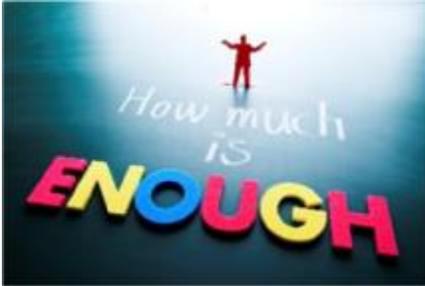
baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

ENOUGH?



IN PHILIPPIANS 4:12 PAUL INDICATED THAT HE KNEW HOW TO GET ALONG WITH HUMBLE MEANS AND ALSO KNEW HOW TO LIVE IN PROSPERITY. I PREACHED ON THIS PASSAGE SUNDAY AND INDICATED THAT PAUL WAS OFTEN IMPRISONED OR NEEDY AS INDICATED IN II CORINTHIANS 11:23-27; HE KNEW POVERTY. BUT HE ALSO KNEW PROSPERITY WHICH PROBABLY REFERS TO HIS CHILDHOOD IN A WEALTHY HOME.

STUDYING THIS PASSAGE CAUSED ME TO WONDER WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HAVING ENOUGH. WHAT I FOUND WERE SIXTY-TWO USES OF THAT WORD. THE TWO THEMES ARE, LIKE PAUL'S SCENARIO, THAT OF POVERTY AND THE OTHER OF PLENTY. PAUL KNEW HOW TO ACCEPT BOTH THOUGH MANY DO NOT.

IN JOSHUA 17:16 THE SONS OF JOSEPH COMPLAINED THAT THE HILL COUNTRY WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR THEM. ELISHA, WHEN THREATENED BY QUEEN JEZEBEL, COMPLAINED THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH HOPE FOR HIM (SEE I KINGS 19:4). THE FAITHLESS DISCIPLES TOLD JESUS THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED A LARGE CROWD (MATTHEW 15:33) AND IN MATTHEW 25:9 THE WISE VIRGINS INFORMED THE UNWISE ONES THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH OIL TO SHARE. THE PRODIGAL SON BEMOANED HIS LACK OF BREAD AND REMEMBERED THAT HIS FATHER'S SERVANTS HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH. (LUKE 15:17).

ON THE MORE POSITIVE SIDE OF ENOUGH IS THAT OF HAVING PLENTY. ESAU HAD NO NEED FOR JACOB'S GIFTS AND INDICATED HE HAD ENOUGH. (GENESIS 33:9). PROVERBS 13:35 PROMISES THAT THE RIGHTEOUS WILL HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH AND LUKE 14:28 COMMENDS A BUILDER WHO COUNTS THE COST TO SEE IF HE HAS ENOUGH TO FINISH BEFORE STARTING A PROJECT. TO THE BOLD BUT BEFUDDLED DISCIPLES JESUS SAID THAT TWO SWORDS WERE ENOUGH (LUKE 22:38) AND JUST BEFORE THEIR SHIP WAS WRECKED PAUL AND 275 OTHER PASSENGERS ATE ENOUGH TO SATISFY THEM (SEE ACTS 27:38)

BY FAR THE GREATEST TRUTH WHEN CONSIDERING "ENOUGH" IS NOT POVERTY OR PLENTY IT'S PROVISION. GOD DOESN'T SIMPLY GIVE ENOUGH, HE GIVES IN EXCESS! PAUL INDICATES THAT GOD'S GRACE TO HIM WAS "MORE THAN ABUNDANT, WITH THE FAITH AND LOVE WHICH ARE FOUND IN CHRIST JESUS." (I TIMOTHY 1:14). AND PETER WRITES, "BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO ACCORDING TO HIS GREAT MERCY HAS CAUSED US TO BE BORN AGAIN . . .". WITH CHRIST WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH, BE HAVE AN ABUNDANCE. LET'S REMEMBER AND REJOICE IN THIS.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE