

Craig Groeschel: Hey everybody, before we dive in to part four of the series Bad Advice, I want to thank our God that we get to be a part of an amazing nation. I share with you all, very happy July 4th week. I want to tell you that the first Thursday of every month I actually release a free leadership podcast, I'm very passionate about helping people become better leaders in every area of life. If you want to go to ITUNES you can search Craig Groschel leadership podcast, or go to [life.church/leaderhippodcast](http://life.church/leaderhippodcast). If you subscribe, they will come directly to you. Also, guess what's next week? You've been waiting for it, it's called At the Movies. This is the prime-time to bring people that normally wouldn't go to church, we take very popular movies, but I can't tell you which one because you have to be here to see it. We take popular movies and we teach spiritual truth and use the movies to illustrate the truth in the Bible. That is next week, I will see you next week at At the Movies, no let's go to part four of Bad Advice.

Speaker 2: Hey, want some advice? You need more things, nicer car, bigger house, bigger garage to keep it in, and you'll be satisfied. Go ahead, it's just another payment, you deserve it.

Craig Groeschel: Well I'm glad to have all of you guys with us for part four of a message series called Bad Advice. Let me get a show of hands at all of our churches, how many of you would say that if you had a little more money that would bring some relief, make life easier, or perhaps better, raise up your hands. Cmon, be honest, if I gave you ten thousand dollars now would you be happy? Yeah you go, raise up those hands right. Absolutely, of course. Almost everybody would say a little more money would make life easier or better. Just like when I was growing up, every year on my birthday or on Christmas, grandma would send us a check. What's interesting, my little sister her name is Lisa, she actually shares the exact same birthday with me only three years apart. Same day, so we get a check on birthday and we get a check on Christmas. Every year she'd get her ten dollar check from grandma and open it up and she would go, "Ten dollars!" Every year I'd get my ten dollar check from grandma and open it up and say, "Fifty dollars!" Why? Because that's the kind of big brother I was.

She would scream, "No! You didn't get fifty dollars." I said, "Yes I did," and I put in my pocket. "Show me." "No, I won't show you." Every year she fell for it and every year she would cry. Every year this happened until one year when grandma sent me my ten dollar check and I went, "Fifty dollars, fifty dollars," and grandma sent Lisa a fifty dollar check. She went, "Fifty dollars," and it was really fifty dollars. Grandma stuck it to me, okay. Grandma had the final say. I just remember being devastated, she got more, this is not fair, why? We all know that if we had a little bit more we would be happy.

Today what I want to do as we're in a message series called Bad Advice, I'm actually giving bad advice. When we talk about bad advice and the context of the church it becomes incredibly obvious that it's really bad advice. When we look at the way that we actually live, when we look at how we behave, it often appears that we are taking bad advice. As we hear bad advice in this context I believe it will highlight

Godly advice, today I want to give you is the advice how to be dissatisfied, how to be dissatisfied. Let's start with scripture today from First Timothy chapter 6, verses 6-8. Paul told Timothy this, he said that Godliness with what? Somebody help me, he said, "Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world." In other words we had nothing when we were born and we can take nothing out of it. If we have food and clothing, Paul said what? He said, "We will be content with that." Now let's be honest, how many of you ate this week? Yeah, okay. How many of you have clothing? Everybody in a physical campus that does, there maybe some people at Church Online that don't, put on some pants right now at Church Online, just saying. You've got em, wear em, just saying. Don't come to church in your underwear, I guess you can at Church Online, anyway.

If we have food and clothing we will be content with that but let's be honest, most people we know have the basic necessities at least where we live, and most people we know are not content. Why? Because we buy into the lie and believe the bad advice. If we only had a little bit more then we would be happy. For example, how much money do you think that you need to make to be happy? Really interesting question, there have been lots of different studies done on this. How much do you need to earn to be happy? It depends on where you live, in other words where I live the cost of living is less than on the coasts and such. Anyway, an average report is this, the Gallop Poll did a study and it found that if you earn thirty thousand dollars a year or less, you think that seventy-four thousand dollars a year would be enough. Now, there was a time when I made under thirty thousand dollars a year, and I remember thinking very clearly seventy-four thousand dollars a year would be unlimited funds. You could do anything and everything you wanted. Then we had six kids and two weddings, summer, back to back to back. Suddenly, seventy-four thousand dollars doesn't sound as unlimited as it used to.

Those who made around fifty thousand dollars a year, they said it would take a hundred thousand dollars a year. They would be satisfied forever and completely happy. Some of you thought that at one point and now you may make that or have a combined income, and you may say I've got news for you, with a big mortgage payment, two car payments, a kid or two in private school, dance, soccer, ballet, insurance, braces, a hundred thousand dollars doesn't go that far. How much do we need to be satisfied, to be happy? The answer generally is what? Just a little bit more, just a little bit more. In fact, Jesus told this parable that really captures where many of us might live spiritually. He said this in verse 16 of Luke chapter 12, he told this parable and said, "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest." He thought to himself, what shall I do? I have no place to store my crops. Then he said this is what I'll do, I'll tear down my barn and I'll build bigger ones and there I'll store my surplus grain. I'll say to myself, hey you have plenty of grain laid up for many years, take life easy, eat, drink, and be merry. In other words when I have all of this, now I can be happy. Which this is what many of us actually think.

If one day I can have the bigger place, the bigger this, more grain in the barn, then I can take life easy and be happy. It's not just financial dissatisfaction, some of us, if I

could just lose twenty pounds then I'd feel better about myself. Or for some of you, if I could gain twenty pounds then I would feel better about myself. If I just had a better job, any job, if I had a job with insurance, benefits, then I would feel better. Some people think, well when I get married, then I can be satisfied. Then they think when I have kids we can be satisfied. Then when our kids get out of diapers we can live again, then when our kids can drive we'll be okay, then when our kids get out of the house we'll be fine, then when they get out of college they'll be fine, then when they get out of the house again because they came home after college. Some of you know what I'm talking about, right? They're boomerang kids. You did this, and they're back right? How did that happen?

God said this to the guy, he said, "You fool. This very night your life will be demanded from you, and this is how it will be with whoever stores things up for themselves but is not (What?) is not rich towards God." Isn't it interesting that so many people will think more things will make us happy, more things will make us satisfied, more things of this world will really bring meaning. Yet we're not really pursuing the riches that come from God. What I want to do today is give you some bad advice.

If you every wake up and you feel really blessed by God, if you're full of joy that could only come from heaven, if you've got a supernatural peace that goes beyond your human ability to understand. If you've got great friendships, great relationships, you know that you have health, and you live in a great part of the world, and you're blessed with a great church family and a life group, and people that care for you. You find yourself, life is just going so great and you want to be miserable? I want to show you very clearly how to be dissatisfied. You'll want to write this down because this can change your life for the worse.

Number one, bad advice, if you want to be dissatisfied number one, I want you to focus on being ungrateful. Focus on being ungrateful, Paul told the Thessalonians, First Thessalonians 5, 16-17, he said to do what? "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I mean who is that stupid to give thanks in all circumstances? Don't do that, you gripe in all circumstances, complain in all circumstances, find fault everywhere that you go and everything that you look at. Foster a genuine spirit of ingratitude, that is deep in your soul.

What you want to do is you want to resent God's goodness and anyone else's life. Whenever someone else is blessed you just want to go, "Uh who do they think they are? They're not that good of a person." Tell yourself that you're way better than them and you deserve more, be jealous of them, be critical of them, be envious of them. If they get a nice car, talk about how it will probably break down, they paid too much for it and I bet they have a high interest rate on it. Okay, if they get a raise talk about how you deserved it and they didn't. If they're married too and you're not, just trash talk the person they married, that will make you feel so much better. If they have nicer clothes or get more attention, just tear them down, resent God's goodness in other people's lives. Then, don't miss this, ignore his

goodness in your own. Don't be grateful for what you have, don't be thankful for your health, or your friends, or the blessings that you have. That you have plenty to eat, that you have a place to stay, that you have transportation, and on and on. Focus number one, on being ungrateful.

Number two, this is so good, compare what you have to people that have more. This will mess with your mind every single time, okay. Paul told the Corinthians in Second Corinthians 10:12, he said, "We do not dare to classify (or what?) or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare with themselves what are they? They are not wise." That is our goal, our goal is to be completely foolish in all that we do, okay. Compare with those who have way more. In other words, if you kind of like your house, binge watch some HGTV. It will work every time, you'll hate your pathetic little shack and be totally dissatisfied. I mean compare everything, compare salaries, compare marriages, compare washer and dryers, oh ladies this ones good, if someone else has one of those front loaders and you got a top loader, how do you even make it? Front loaders the only way, look at that front loader and just hate it. Compare your bodies with other people, compare them with the anorexic models on magazines that are air brushed that haven't eaten since 2008, you know the ones. The ones that have invested more in their upper half than you have invested in retirement, compare with them. Did I just say that out load? Yes I did, deal with it, compare yourself with them. Feel bad about yourself because you don't have the ability to air brush yourself.

Guys, compare whatever, shoes, salaries, I don't have as much hair. Compare on social media, they get more likes on their sunset picture than you get likes on your sunset picture, your Bible verse, get the same verse and you didn't get as many likes as they, they've got more followers, just whatever you do. Compare with someone that has more than you, this is one of the great surefire ways to become dissatisfied, I hope you're taking notes because this is life changing. If you want to be totally dissatisfied number one, focus on being ungrateful, number two compare with people who have more, and number three, pursue temporary possessions over eternal treasures.

Pursue temporary possessions over eternal treasures. Jesus said this in Luke 12:15, he said, "Watch out, be on your guard against all kinds of greed." Why? He said, "Because life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." How stupid is that? We all know life is what you have right? You are what you drive, you are what you wear, life is all about things, things, things, don't care about people. Don't care about eternity, don't care about making a difference, those are shallow. Eternal things, you want to focus on the things that matter now. The self centered thing, don't ever settle for eternal blessings when you can settle for what really doesn't matter now, think short term, focus on the moment. Just tell yourself again and again, more is better. Everybody say it with me, more is better, more is better, bigger is better, bigger is better, now is better, some of you are shaking your head, you won't even work with me, why? This is bad advice, this is bad advice. Pursue temporary possessions over eternal treasures.

Number four, you want to be dissatisfied? Develop an attitude of entitlement. Develop an attitude of entitlement, why? Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." In other words, what do you think that Paul is saying we deserve? We actually deserve death. That's the stupidest thing ever, we deserve much more than that right? You've had a rough life, you've worked hard, you've got more coming to you right? You deserve more, you deserve those new shoes, you deserve that outfit that goes with those new shoes, you deserve a new car, you deserve a new boat, you deserve a new phone, you deserve a half gallon of Chunky Monkey ice cream. Somebody said Amen to that, okay. You deserve it, you deserve it. Foster that attitude of entitlement.

Here's what you do, just do this today if you can, drive your car to the place that you live. Push a button, watch the garage door open. Drive your car into a house for your garage, gripe about how your car gets bad gas mileage and isn't as nice as those with heated seats. Walk into your climate controlled home, stream a movie, complain that the WiFi is so slow. Walk into your closet and touch all of your clothes and then say passionately, I've got nothing to wear. Do that again and again every single day. What you're going to do is you're going to totally build an attitude of entitlement.

Okay, some people ask me, is it hard to say the opposite? Yes it is, and to keep a straight face. Really, really hard but I hope that when we do this in the context of the church, you actually set back and say that's really bad advice. Wouldn't you agree a lot of times that's what so many of us actually end up doing, we actually compare all day long, we're actually focused on what we don't have instead of focusing on what we do have. We're incredibly ungrateful, most of us, most people experiencing this message right now, we live in a really, really blessed part of the world. We're way, way up there in terms of blessings. Most people would look at our lives and say are you kidding me? You all have so much. Yet sometimes the more we have the more ungrateful we can actually be.

What I want to do is I want to zero in on one big thought that will really help tie the four weeks together. For those of you that have been here over the last four weeks, this one thought hopefully will help kind of bring a little revolution of why it is that we struggle so much. Someone said this to me, it's printed in your notes just as a title, years ago they said that how we live reveals what we believe. I like that, how we live reveals what we believe. In other words, don't tell me what you believe, show me. Your actions often show what you really believe, how we live reveals what we really believe. This wouldn't necessarily be true for everyone, but culturally I think that many of you would agree that most lives are actually saying this, if our, if the way we live could speak, what many peoples lives would be saying today would be this, what the lives would be saying is this, what Christ offers is not as good as what this world offers. Okay? That's what many people would say. That what Jesus offers us, really by the way we live, it isn't as good as what the world offers.

If you go back to week number one we talked about how to drift from God, okay. If God is a source of life, if Jesus is everything, and yet we see shiny things and we start to chase shiny things. These other things will satisfy me and so we end up drifting from God. Week number two we talked about how to become an addict, we know that God offers peace, that God is the answer for our anxiety, that God is the source of everything that we need, but suddenly something in a bottle makes a promise. If you have me you'll be able to relax. A pill says if you have me you'll be able to have fun. If you smoke me you'll be able to, hey if you go and place a bet the rush, the adrenalin, the hit, the win, that will make you satisfied. What we believe by how we behave is that Jesus doesn't offer what something else offers. I'll go take that.

Week number three we talked about adultery, well I promised God to be faithful to this person and believe that God ordained the covenant of marriage but something outside of God's plan, that could make me feel good in the moment. That could bring satisfaction to me, and again our lives essentially say what Christ offers is not as good as what this world offers. Today we're talking about how to be dissatisfied, Christ is life. Christ is what matters, and yet the way we live says but if i have that car, if I have that toy, if I have that house, if I live there, if i knew that person, if I had that many Instagram followers, if I just had those pair of new shoes, then I would be satisfied. We continue to live the bad advice.

When we talk about gratitude there's a couple of quotes that I say over and over again to myself. The first one is this, I tell myself again and again that gratitude turns what I have into enough. Gratitude turns what we have into enough. Gratitude turns what we have into enough because it's not happy people who are grateful, right? It's not happy people who are grateful, but it's grateful people who are happy. I want to focus on a couple of verses to close this message series out. These verses are amongst my favorite in all of scripture, Philippians chapter 3 verses 7-8, Paul was talking to the Philippians and this is what he said, "But whatever world gains to me, I now consider lost for the sake of Christ." If you know about Paul, he was really in to his titles, his accomplishments, who he was, what he had done, and the older I get the ore that portion of scripture is absolutely and completely true to me. What I used to consider important, what I used to consider the wins, all these things now are actually a loss because the older I get the closer I get to truly living in eternity, the more that that which really matters becomes obvious to me.

Paul said, "Whatever world gains to me, I now consider lost for the sake of Christ." In verse 8 he says what is more, I consider what? Let's all say it aloud. He said, "I consider everything a loss because (of what?) because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord for whose sake I've lost all things, then he says, I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ. He says I consider all those other things a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus as my Lord. What I want to talk about for just a moment is truly knowing him. Not just knowing about Jesus, but when you know him in a very intimate way you connect with him, his spirit leads you, his word guides you, his presence empowers you, you're never

doing life on your own. When you wake up you're not living for the temporary pleasures of this world, you're living for that which last eternity. Suddenly you just look at people and say you matter more than things. You look at what you have and say how can I use what I have to make a difference in this world? How can I use the influence that I have to influence others to know the intimacy that Jesus offers, because of who he is, because of what he did for me? My only reasonable response is to say I count all that other stuff a loss compared with knowing him.

When I grew up I just thought you could kind of know about God, I had no idea you could actually know him personally. Jesus said, "And this is eternal life," John 17, "That you may know my father, that you may know him personally." That's why his word matters so much because he reveals who he is through the power of his word. When you feed on his word every single day, then your mind drifts from the things of this world to the things of the kingdom that is to come. Suddenly you're not distracted by the shiny things that promise but do not deliver, they promise but do not deliver. They promise that if you have and the moments you have, oh, that they'd satisfy. I consider all a lot compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ.

Then there's a really rough word in this last portion of scripture. Paul said, "I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ." The word that's translated garbage or rubbish may be in a different version is actually the Greek word [inaudible 00:25:04] and this word actually means human waste, okay. That's the most appropriate way of saying it, it actually means human waste in a way that's not quite as kind as I just said it, okay. This is what Paul says, "I consider all of that stuff [inaudible 00:25:22]." All the things that I thought mattered for so long, they're [inaudible 00:25:26], that I may gain Christ.

Now, for years I tried to teach something like this, Christ is enough. I got it all wrong, Christ is not enough, okay. Christ is way more than enough. He's way more than enough, he is everything, he is eternal, he is real, he is truth, he is the living water, he is the living vine, he is the rock, he is the alpha, the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, he is our redeemer, he is our righteousness, he is our Lord, he is our Savior, he is the lion, he is the lamb, he is the soon returning King of Kings and Lord of Lords. You have a spiritual enemy who wants to steal from you to kill and destroy, that's what our enemy wants to do, to steal, kill, and destroy. The way we live often communicates that we believe what Christ offers is not enough, because we tend to live, the way we live says if we had more, more this, more this, we'd be satisfied, we'd be happy. The only thing that brings true eternal satisfaction is more of Jesus, more of Jesus, more of Jesus.

At all of our churches today I pray that some of you that you'll have a spiritual breakthrough. Just like Paul did, it's a breakthrough. He said, I consider all of this stuff a loss compared with, compared with, I'm not comparing with people that have more. I'm comparing it with people who have settled for less, compared with the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus Christ for whom I've lost all things. I consider all of that other stuff [inaudible 00:27:24] compared with the surpassing

greatness of knowing Jesus, because Jesus is not just enough, but he is way, way more than enough.

Father today I pray at all of our churches by the power of your Holy Spirit, you would do a work in us that only you can do. I ask God that you administer life in a spirit of deep contentment and gratitude in all of our hearts. As you pray today at all of our churches with nobody looking around, I wonder how many today would say deep down I actually can be dissatisfied, I often and a little more discontent. I find myself comparing, feeling less then, thinking by this point in my life I thought I'd be doing more, I'd be more important, I'd have more, and falling prey to what so many of us are vulnerable to, I know that can be me and I admit and acknowledge that. At all of our churches if you say I often really do, by the way I love it just says it, I believe the lie that if i had something more, something different, something better, then perhaps I'd be satisfied and I want Christ to meet those deep needs. If that's you would you lift up your hands right now? All of our churches, just lift up your hands.

Father I thank you for your presence and what your saying to so many people today. God I just confess and repent in my own life of wanting more of the things of this world instead of pursuing more of the things that last forever. We pray God that in your presence your Holy Spirit would minister to us in a deep and a powerful way God. That Jesus is not just enough he's more than enough. That he's more that enough. God I pray there would be spiritual break through's in hearts of all of our churches to recognize he is what we need God. Increase our passion, our desire to pursue and to know him. May we be found full of his goodness, overflowing with his love, and sharing his goodness with people every single day.

As you keep praying today at all of our churches I know there are many of you that when you look at your life right now you may think oh man, I've messed up in so many different ways. I've made so many mistakes, I've fallen short again and again. When you look at how you're living, so many people today I believe are just looking for that something else that's going to fill the emptiness. I remember years ago in Seminary someone said that there's a Christ shaped void in all of us, I love that imagery. There's a Christ shaped void. You can continue to try to find me and go pursue everything you can, go searching for it, run it down, try things, parties, experiences, vacations, relationships, you name it you get it. Make more money, whatever and at the end of the day you will still wake up dissatisfied, why? The things of the world never satisfy, you have a Christ shaped void in your soul, you need him, you were created for eternity to know him, to serve him and to be transformed by him.

At all of our churches, there are those of you, you recognize you've been settling for thing things of this world, and you want more. You want to know Christ, you want to recognize all those other things are a lost compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing him. You may think for a moment, well I'm not good enough, I need to clean up first, I need to do better, try harder, and the reality is you just come to him exactly as you are. You come to him and say I need your grace, I need

your forgiveness, because God loved you so much he sent Jesus to do for you that you could not do for yourself.

At all of our churches, those who say yes, I'm a sinner, I need a savior, there's emptiness inside of me, I turn from my sins, I call on Jesus, I ask him to fill the void, to be the savior of my life, and I make him Lord. Today by faith I make give my life to him, that's your prayer. Would you lift your hands high right now? All of our churches say yes, I surrender to him. Those at Church Online, please click right below me and we're all going to pray together aloud. Would you pray, heavenly father, forgive me, of all of my sins, make me brand new. I believe, Jesus died for me, and he rose again, so I could know you, so I could serve you, so I could follow you. My life, is not my own, I give it to you. You lead me, you direct me, I am yours. Thank you for new life, today I give you mine. In Jesus name I pray, would you all worship big, worship loud? Welcome those born into God's family.