

Contentment Is Great Gain

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

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1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

- I. There is a great difference between people who are practicing religion and those who have found true contentment.
 - A. Those who are content are just thankful.
 - B. They are satisfied with what they have and what their life contains.
 - C. They are resting willingly in their circumstances.
 - D. They might have chosen different circumstances; which of us would not have changed some things if we had the power?
 1. But God has made life so sweet for them that they have accepted the bad things with joy and thankfulness.
 - E. They are at peace and the atmosphere around them is still and quiet.
 - F. They have ceased from being restless and desiring and pursuing everything but God.

CONTENT, Rest or quietness of the mind in the present condition; satisfaction which holds the mind in peace, restraining complaint, opposition, or further desire, and often implying a moderate degree of happiness. Acquiescence; satisfaction without examination ...in other words to put it in God's hands.

John 13:38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake?

CONTENTION, Strife; struggle; a violent effort to obtain something, or to resist a person, claim or injury; contest; quarrel.

- G. Contentment is that state of mind and spirit where you do not desire and pine for what is in the past, or what you want in your future.
 1. It is a state of rest for the soul and mind and peace in the present circumstances.
- II. Contentment is not:
 - A. Self-confidence
 - B. Self-sufficiency
 1. While you are in pursuit of these kinds of things contentment will elude you.
 - C. Lack of initiative
 1. To just give up all ambition and hope for the future is not contentment but despair.
 - D. Laziness

- 1. No one is more miserable and discontented than a lazy person.
- E. Resignation
 - 1. To give up in the sense of thinking you will never win and all things are always against you is not the road to contentment at all.

III. There is a false peace and contentment that the world can give.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

- A. There can be a sort of satisfaction in THINGS, POSSESSIONS, and CIRCUMSTANCES – but it is very fragile and temporary.
- B. This worldly peace and contentment is not consistent and deep down – it only makes you hard and numb to God’s Spirit and his Word.
 - 1. Because you are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing.
 - 2. Because you become convinced that you have learned more than others so you have no need that others should teach you.
- C. This false contentment is very easy to identify because God is not the focus of the contentment – it is SELF.
- D. GODLINESS with contentment is great gain.
- E. UNGODLINESS with feigned contentment is great LOSS.

IV. Murmuring is the evidence of the lack of contentment.

- A. Murmur – A complaint half suppressed, or uttered in a low, muttering voice.

Exodus 15:24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

- B. In 1 Corinthians 10:10 Paul names some things that were our examples to the intent that we should not lust after evil things and then he first mentions idolaters, fornicators, and then murmurers.

1 Corinthians 10:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

- C. Murmuring and discontentment is ungodliness.

Jude 1:14-16 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

- D. We need to ask ourselves the question, “Am I a murmurer or am I a contented child of God?”

V. Want to be rich?

- A. Godliness with contentment is GREAT gain – you are a rich person.
- B. You have found what God meant life for us to be like.

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 6:10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

- C. Godliness with contentment makes the things you lack or the things you have missed NOT MATTER anymore.
 - 1. It takes away the striving and reaching and longing for things that you don't have or things you have lost.
- D. A life of true faith in God is a life of contentment.
 - 1. You cannot trust God and murmur at the same time.
 - 2. You cannot believe that God loves you and is doing what is best for you and at the same time be complaining about your circumstances – even in your heart.
 - a) Murmuring is suppressed complaining.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.