

## THE DISCIPLINE OF CONTENTMENT: ALL THIS AND HEAVEN TOO!

(1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5-6; Philippians 4:10-13)

Series: "The Disciplines of a Godly Life" (Part 5)

...Never in human history have so many (millions) been given so much as the average American, and yet, the spirit of dis-contentment is pervasive. We have "stuff" coming out "our ears" and yet dissatisfaction reigns.

...Because we too as Christians "swim" in muddy waters (our culture) we are not immune from this malady of the soul. Discontentment is an ugly spiritual sickness. For we that have "Life and have it more abundantly," ought to be the light of the world radiating with joy, and not imprisoned with this cancer of the soul.

...The Apostle Paul taught "Contentment is something learned, no matter the circumstances of life." (Phil 4)  
Therefore contentment is one of the disciplines of a godly life and needs to be learned by each of us.

## TWO OBSERVATIONS WHY "GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN."

In having our Lord Jesus Christ, we have everything. He is the treasure!

### I. Contentment In Life Is Not Found Anywhere But In Jesus. 1Tim 6:6-8, Hebs. 13

...For nothing else satisfies your hungry soul. "You were made for God, not gold." It is Jesus alone!

A. Paul uses the word in 1 Timothy 6 "Contentment." In the ancient world this meant that a man had all the resources he needed within himself. He was self-sufficient. Paul meant something different; the Christian is not "self-sufficient, but Christ-sufficient."

...The person who has, "The rare jewel of Christian contentment" is so because he has all his resources in God. "But my God will supply all your needs in Christ Jesus..." (Phil 4:19)

B. Our trouble is that we are not always content with life and our circumstances.

1. Some of this discontent comes from the natural frustration of living in a fallen world, as we wait for the day when "all things will be made new." We live in a broken world..

2. But a good deal of our discontent also comes from not being satisfied with Jesus Himself. We want something more, or something else... (Psalm 16:11)

C. Discontent is life's robber, for it robs every experience of its God-given joy. Someone who is discontent operates at a loss, for he is always thinking about what he lacks.

1. Even when you get what you think you want, a new home, a new job, an outfit, whatever, you soon find that you are discontent all over again.

2. This is because discontent is a like a "noxious weed," rooted in the heart.

D. God made the human heart for a craving, a yearning not for gold, but God!

1. Anyone who comes to God through Jesus finds meaning, purpose, joy and satisfaction.

2. Paul told us that the secret to contentment is to be satisfied with Jesus Christ.

...The more content you are with Jesus, the more you discover that "Godliness with contentment is GREAT gain." Not just "gain," but "great gain." What an investment!

### II. Godliness Coupled With Contentment Is The Only Way To Live.

...Paul lays down several reasons explaining why "Godliness with contentment" is the best way to live.

..."Godliness" means the knowledge of Christ in the mind, and in the heart that is worked out through life.

A. Be content now for you will leave all the stuff accumulated in life. All die penniless. (6:7)

...Since you can't take anything with you...don't live for such things. (Adam, Job, Solomon)

- B. Be content with what you have here, because what you have is enough. (1 Tim 6:8)
1. "If we have food and 'covering' with these we will be content."
  2. Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life...for God who cares for the flowers and the birds will also provide your every need." "God is my helper!" (Matt 6:25) (Hebrews 13:6)
  3. John Calvin speaking about our "great gain," said, "it is a great gain because through it we become not only heirs of the world, but more, are enabled to enjoy Christ and all His riches, and not only for this life, but also for the life to come." Forever!!
- C. Be content, for discontent often leads to disaster. (6:9) Paul warns of danger.
1. It is the "love of money" that leads to all sorts of evil. It is a trap.  
...Money is morally neutral; the problem lies deep within our heart.
  2. Such a wrong focus has led many far from the faith. "Ship-wrecked."
- "Discontentment is one of man's greatest sins; contentment is one of God's greatest blessings!" (JM)

## SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN MY LIFE?

1. As a Christian when you take your eyes off of Jesus...you are in trouble. You are urged to keep your eyes on Jesus no matter what He allows in your life. It matters not what disappointments you may suffer, heartache and tears, losses of all kinds...you were made for Jesus and it is only at His feet can you ever find contentment, joy, and the deep satisfaction we all desire.
2. As you stay close to Him, He will provide you with all that you need, both physically and spiritually. Say with Job in your heart, "Though He should slay me, yet will I serve Him." That is, if it should be God's will to take your life and cut it short...no matter what...you will ever be "Stayed upon Jehovah."
3. Come again to realize that nothing else can possibly satisfy your thirsty heart. Everything apart from Jesus is the cheap stuff; it can never deliver what might be promised. Never!
4. God has provided the only way of escape for His sinful rebellious creatures...us! We have wandered far away from His will and are worthy of the judgment of death. BUT, there is help. God did everything that needed to be done to deliver us from what we justly deserve in giving His own Son on the Cross. Through this, He provided salvation... will you confess your sin and bow your head and heart before Him as Savior and Lord?