

## Well Done Good and Faithful Church – Exhorting to Contentment

April 10, 2022

1 Tim. 6: 6-10

**Contentment Defined:** peace or joyful acceptance

Contentment is the highest indicator of a mature faith in the Lord. **Contentment Means:**

- 1) Not trusting circumstances for happiness. Not waiting for things to fall into place to rest easy in the Lord.
- 2) A true belief in the sovereignty of God, Is. 45:7, Rom. 8:28,
- 3) Not being shocked at disappointment, Job 5:7,
- 4) Looking beyond this life in meaningful ways, believe Rev. 21:4,
- 5) Taking God at His Word, Ps. 119:71, good to be afflicted to learn Gods ways,
- 6) Finding your pleasure in God, Ps. 42:1, a thirst and hunger for God,
- 7) Rightly aligned priorities, Eph. 5:15,
- 8) A low view of self and a high view of God, Jn. 3:30,
- 9) Not being rocked by world events, Matt. 24:6, see that you aren't alarmed,
- 10) Embracing suffering as for your good, James 1:2, count it all joy in trials.

Contentment is not an emotion – true contentment can be an ally to your feelings. It is not a false faith happiness- pretending that grief and pain don't exist. Jesus is our example of suffering.

This passage's subject is contentment as it relates to the love of money.

**Contrast of True Wealth and Total Loss V6 & V10:** V10, Total Loss: V9 the “desire to be rich,” a craving. The love of money is “a root” of all kinds of evil. Pro. 6:16-19, shows the abominations to the Lord that begin with covetousness. It is an attitude of the heart, and those who are covetousness will not inherit the kingdom God, 1 Cor. 6:10.

What are the effects of covetousness: 1) Wandered from the faith, v10, meaning “enticed away.” 2) The consequence? Pierced with many pains and sorrows. Pierced means impaled and is a violent word, this is done by the person to themselves.

What is true wealth: 1) Godliness, V6, is that you believe the truth and live what you believe. Not a form of godliness without power from 2 Tim. 3:5, but we obey and accept God's commands 2) With contentment: means “self-sufficient,” it means to have a deep and abiding satisfaction with your circumstances, it is God-sufficiency, see also 2 Cor. 9:8, a deep-seated trust in the Lord with the fruit of the Spirit of peace. “Is great gain,” V6, means great wealth, mega-wealth. Godliness with contentment is true wealth.

**Contrast of Heaven and Hell V7 & V9:** The Contrast of Hell: V9, “a desire to be rich,” a deep personal yearning. The desire to be rich is not the same as those who are rich. “Fall into this trap,” associated with treacherous spiritual danger, 1 Tim. 3:6, Matt. 12:11, Lu. 6:39, 10:36, Heb. 10:31.

Dangers: 1) Temptation: self-inflicted, Ps. 62:10, 49:6, 52:7. 2) Snare: trap. Word used in 1 Tim. 3:7 & 2 Tim. 2:26- these show the snare of the devil, Satan is behind the trap. Prov. 11:28. 3) Senseless and harmful desires: harmful: anything that will hurt you. Senseless desires: It proves that greed is irrational. Greed for success, power, position, geography, for anything. Why irrational: because you will lose everything you were greedy for. You keep nothing you lusted for. How does it connect to Hell and eternal judgement?

V9, “plunge people into ruin and destruction,” used in Lu. 5:7, a boat sinking into sea. Into “ruin”: used in: 1 Cor. 5:5, death of body; 1 Thess. 5:3, wrath of God poured on the earth; 2 Thess. 1:9, death in hell. Into “destruction” and perdition: 2 Thess. 2:3; of Judas, Jn 17:12; Matt. 7:13 of those who follow the broad way to destruction. It describes the doom of those who are about to be in hell:

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Continued from Page 1: In Rev. 17:8, 17:11. The doom of false teachers from 2 Pet. 2: 1-3, v1, “swift destruction,” v3 of those who exploit the church for greed, “their destruction is not asleep,” 2 Pet. 3:7, “the destruction of the ungodly,” 3:16, the words of God they “twist to their own destruction.” It speaks of evil, wickedness, eternal damnation and judgement, not a Christian who has gone slightly off track. The pursuit is a sinking ship, a pit of judgement, and a one-way ticket to hell.

The contrast of heaven: V7, we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out. Our life is a short wisp of wind, Ps. 103:15-16. It causes worship, Job 1:21, in any state, God is still God, it doesn’t cause worry or despair. The Lord gives all we have and takes all we have away. Phil. 1:23, Paul shared that we would take nothing out of the world. All is left behind and God has prepared a place for us where the Lamb of God is seated on His throne: Jn. 14:1-3, 2 Cor. 5:8, “home with the Lord,” Rev.4:2-11: before the throne of God.

**The Profile of Content Believers**V8: V8, be content: “having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” Pro. 30:8-9, be content. Matt.6:11, your daily bread is enough for today. Matt. 6:31, do not worry about the things that God provides us. What are some of the common elements to a profile of a contented believer who is completely satisfied with food and clothing: From 1 Thess. 5:16-24; V16) Rejoice always: for our salvation, the Lord, Gospel, the cross. V17) Contented believer constantly in communion with God. V18) Give thanks in all circumstances, doesn’t gripe, but gives thanks. V19) Bears the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace. V20) Saturated in the Word of God. V21) Exercises wisdom and discernment. V22) Not enamored by wickedness, lust, and greed. V23) Be heavenly minded. V24) Has an assurance of salvation in God’s faithfulness.

**\*\*Paul uses hyperbole here. Why? Because we have so many more blessings than food and clothing. Steve provides one from each OT and NT book starting in the online video at: 1 Hr :14 Min.**

### Further Discussion and Application

Heavenly thinking protects us from lusting and desiring the world’s pleasures. What is a time you have been trapped by your own lusts and greediness? How did that turn out? How has godly contentment filled your life with thankfulness and peace, because you have what the Lord wants you to have which are: assurance of salvation, peace with God, and love for the brethren?

Rom. 8:16-17 says we are heirs with Christ and 1 Pet.1:4 says we have an inheritance reserved in heaven.

(1) If we love money we don’t belong to Christ and (2) If you belong to Christ be wary of looking like you don’t. Covetousness is a dark, dreadful sin for the one who desires so much. What are ways that we protect ourselves from this sin? What are the truths of the Bible that protect us from a deceitful heart that covets?

Ps. 24:1 says God owns everything. Covetousness shows up in how we think about possessions, about how we gain wealth, in our stinginess, in fear of not having enough, and defining wants as needs. We need to **Relax** and trust in the Lord and not in our things and pursuits. What should be our focus in life, work, our marriages, and our families to combat this destructive sin?