

Contentment Is Great Gain

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

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

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

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

Heb 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.

- I. There is a great noticeable difference between people who are practicing religion and those who have found true contentment.
 - A. Those who are content are just thankful for what they have and not bitter or anxious about what they do not have.
 - B. They are satisfied with what they have and what their life contains, and at peace.
 - C. They might have chosen different circumstances, which of us would not have changed some things if we had the power?
 - 1. But they have accepted the bad things with joy and thankfulness to God for his grace through it all.
 - 2. In looking at the whole picture of their life they have found it to be sweet and not bitter.
 - D. They are at peace and the atmosphere around them is still and quiet.
 - E. They have stopped reaching and longing and even desiring things which they do not have, or things they might have had.
 - F. They have ceased from wanting 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? (to Peter)

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

- II. Contentment is not:
 - A. Self-confidence (resting in our own powers and abilities)
 - B. Self-sufficiency (Knowing that we have enough to take care of ourselves now and in the future)
 - 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 laziness and despair.
 - 2. No one is more miserable and discontented than a lazy person.

- D. 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, and can vanish in a moment of time.
- 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 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.

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

- B. In 1 Cor 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 Cor 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 Christian?”

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.

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

2 Cor 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2 Cor 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 be trusting God and murmuring 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.

Col 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.