

Covetousness vs. Contentment

Sermon 54 in the Hebrews Series

I. The Sin to Avoid v. 5a

Aphilarguros -- **Not** a lover of money.

The Hebrew writer has tied his exhortations together with the idea of love.

v 1 – brotherly love – phil-a-del-phi-a

v 2 – a lover of strangers – phil-o-zenia

v 4 – this morning in SS we saw RESPECT as the root of love

Now, in v. 5 – he turns to a negative injunction. Do not be covetous.

II. The Secret to Happiness v. 5b

“Be content with what you have”.

covetousness always wants just a little bit more.

But contentment says, “It’s good enough – just the way it is.”

III. How to Gain Contentment 5c-6

1. The Promise 5c

“I will never, *no never*, leave you, nor forsake you!”

Not at all.

2. Our Confidence v. 6

Quoting from Psalm 118:6

IV. The Example of Those Who have Gone Before v. 7

The only other occurrence of aphilarguros is in the qualifications of elders.

V. Final Applications on Covetousness and Contentment

A. Discontent is:

1. Contrary to the nature of prayer.
2. Shows we are living more in the here and now than in the light of eternity
3. Is often accepted and excused, although there is no real excuse. .

B. Contentment

1. Comes from a realization of God’s goodness
2. Comes from a realization of God’s omniscience and omnipresence
3. Comes from a realization of God’s sovereignty
4. Comes from a realization of what we really deserve
5. Comes from a realization of what the world’s goods are really worth
6. Comes from having fellowship with the Living God