

**THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN
ROMANS 8:35-39; HEBREWS 13:5-6**

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most precious of all promises that we have as Christians is that of the presence of the Lord!

In our text it says, “Let your conversation be without covetousness.”

In the King James English, the word “conversation” means “your manner of living or your behavior.”

The word “covetousness” is speaking about greed and a discontent with what we have...the lust and desire for more of what this world has to offer.

The Tenth Commandment in Exodus 20:17 states, *"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."*

But mankind has a problem with covetousness: By way of example, consider the man Achan in Joshua 7. Achan's problem was covetousness!

Joshua 7:21—"When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it."

Also consider Israel's problem was covetousness spoken of by the prophet—*Jeremiah 6:13—"For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely."*

Jesus, in the parable of the sower in Luke 8:14, said, *"And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection."*

Jesus, just prior to telling his disciples the parable of the Rich Fool, had this to say them in Luke 12:15, said, *"Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."*

Jesus also told His disciples in Luke 16:13, *"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

Paul had this to say in *Ephesians 5:3—"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;"*

And to Timothy, Paul wrote in *1 Timothy 6:9, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."*

So, we are to let our “conversation be without covetousness.”

Our text also says, “Be content with such things as ye have.”

In Matthew 6:25, Jesus talked about being overly concerned about the things in this life—*"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"*

And Jesus also said in Matthew 6:34—*"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."*

Paul wrote the Philippian Church in *Philippians 4:11—"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."*

And Paul wrote these words to the young preacher Timothy in *1 Timothy 6:6-8—"But godliness with contentment is great gain. {7} For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. {8} And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."*

What is wrong with covetousness and discontentment? (Hebrews 13:5)

1. Covetousness and Discontentment denies the Provision of God.
2. Covetousness and Discontentment denies the Goodness of God.
3. Covetousness and Discontentment denies the Promise of God.
4. Covetousness and Discontentment denies the Help of God.

I. THE PERSON OF THE PROMISE--GOD.

A. He Is The All Powerful God--Omnipotent.

Jeremiah 32:17--"Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:"

**B. He Is The Ever Present God--Omnipresent.
(Psalm 139:7-12)**

C. He Is The All-Knowing God--Omniscient.

1. He Sees All Things!

Proverbs 15:3--"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

2. He Knows All Things!

a. He Knows Our Past!

b. He Knows Our Present!

1) Our Thoughts!

Psalm 44:21--"Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart."

2) Our Words! (Psalm 139:4)

3) Our Deeds! (Psalm 139:2)

4) Our Sorrows!

Exodus 3:7--"And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;"

Isaiah 53:3-4

Hebrews 2:18--"For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."

5) Our Needs!

Matthew 6:32--"(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things."

6) Our Frailties!

Psalm 103:14--"For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."

7) Our Foolishness!

Psalm 69:5--"O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee."

c. He Knows Our Future!

D. He Is The Changeless God! (Hebrews 13:8)

THE PERSON OF THE PROMISE--GOD.

II. THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE PROMISE--THE PEOPLE OF GOD! Who is this promise made to? God's people! The saints!

After Jesus' resurrection and before his ascension, He told His disciples in *Matthew 28:20*-- "... lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." That promise was given to us too!

Understand that the lost will be separated from God at the Great White Throne of Judgment! Death=Separation.

But thank God we who know Christ will have no part in that! Forever we have the presence of the Lord!

III. THE PERMANENCE OF THE PROMISE—WILL “NEVER”
LEAVE NOR..

Greek—ou me (oo may) A double negative.

ou—The absolute negative. An absolute denial. “No” or “not” or “never”!

me—Particle of qualified negation. “The only time it will happen is...”

ou me--A double negative strengthening the denial— “not at all”

It is like saying, “THE ONLY TIME IT WILL EVER HAPPEN IS NEVER!” i.e. Never means never!

God is there for us:

1. **In Time Of Trouble!** (e.g. Job; the apostle Paul)
1 Peter 5:7—“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”
2. **In Time Of Temptation!** (1 Corinthians 10:13)
3. **In Time Of Sorrow!**
4. **In Time Of Sin!**

If God doesn’t seem as close as He once was—Who moved?

You may leave a place of fellowship with Him but never will you leave His presence nor will His presence leave you!

John 14:16—“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;”

IV. THE PEACE OF THE PROMISE—THE PEACE OF GOD.
(Hebrews 13:6)

It comes when we recognize the Person, the possessor, and the permanence.

That we may boldly say:

A. **The Lord Is My Helper!**

Philippians 4:6-7—“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. {7} And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Psalm 46:1—“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

B. **I Will Not Fear What Man Shall Do Unto Me!**

1 Corinthians 10:13—“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

Matthew 10:28—“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

V. THE PUZZLE OF THE PROMISE.

A. **Why Do Some Worry? (Matthew 6:25-34)**

B. **Why Do Some Despair?**

Proverbs 24:10—“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.”

C. **Why Do Some Live Their Lives As If God Is Not Present?**

D. **Why Do So Many Toil And Try To Work Out Their Own Problems With No Thought Of Seeking The Lord’s Face?**

E. **Why Do Some Get To The Point Of Even Doubting Their Salvation? THE ANSWER—DOUBT, the enemy of faith!**