

Replacing Covetousness With Contentment Hebrews 13:5

Today, I want to use definitions from Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary:

“Covetousness: A strong and inordinate desire of obtaining and possessing some supposed good: usually in a bad sense, and applied to an inordinate desire for wealth”.

“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.”

So, we must learn, as Paul said in Phil. 4:11, to be content. That means putting off covetousness and putting on contentment.

We must put off covetousness because:

- 1) God commands it – Heb. 13:5
- 2) It is a part of our old nature – Mark 7:21-23
- 3) It will not lead to fulfillment – Luke 12:15
- 4) It will result in idolatry – Col. 3:5
- 5) It will lead us into all kinds of sin – I Tim. 6:9-10

We must put on contentment to replace covetousness because:

- 1) God commands it – Heb. 13:5
- 2) God gives us a specific promise to encourage us – Heb. 13:5-6
- 3) It brings us great gain – I Tim. 6:6
- 4) Everything material will be left behind when we leave this life – I Tim. 6:7
- 5) It will save us from a multitude of temptations – I Tim. 6:9

How do we do so?

I. We Must Continually Remind Ourselves of the Dangers of Material Abundance

- A. This is not an anti-riches rant.
- B. Note these warnings:

II. We Must Continually Remind Ourselves That God Is Good

A. Paul tells us to consider the goodness and severity of God – Rom. 11:22

B. We have a passage where God proclaims His goodness

C. Let's list all, that according to God, makes up His goodness – Ex. 34:6-7

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

D. Some thoughts about God's goodness as He described it:

E. Other references to His goodness:

III. We Must Continually Remind Ourselves That God Knows All About Us

- A. To know contentment, we must know the all-knowing God

- B. The consummate passage on this is Ps. 139

- C. Listen to how A.W. Tozer puts this:

IV. We Must Continually Remind Ourselves What We Truly Deserve

- A. We all deserve death and hell – Rom. 6:23

- B. We need the attitude of Jacob in Gen. 32:10

V. We Must Continually Remind Ourselves That God Has a Sovereign Plan For Each One

- A. And no two are the same.

- B. Note this in Scripture

- C. God will carry out His individual plan for each one.

VI. We Must Continually Remind Ourselves What Constitutes True Riches

A. “Contentment draws comfort from those things we do not possess materially” Burroughs

B. Paul deals with this in Eph. 1

Conclusion: