

Replacing Covetousness With Contentment ~ Part II

Heb. 13:5

A reminder of Jeremiah Burroughs description of contentment in his book The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment:

“that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God’s wise and fatherly disposal in every condition”

John Owen is another Puritan pastor and writer. Here is his description of contentment: *“Contentment is a gracious frame or disposition of mind, quiet and composed; without, [1] Complaining ...at God’s providential disposals of our outward concerns; [2] All envy at the more prosperous conditions of others; [3] Fears and anxious cares about future supplies; and, [4] Desires and designs of those things which a more plentiful condition than what we are in would supply us [with]”*

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

A. Some of those warnings

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| 1. Prov. 15:27 | 2. Prov. 28:11 | 3. Prov. 23:5 |
| 4. Prov. 11:28 | 5. Prov. 30:8-9 | 6. I Tim. 6:9-10 |

II. We Must Continually Remind Ourselves That God Is Good.

A. God tells us that the primary focus of His goodness is His spiritual blessings

1. Ex. 33:18-19
2. Ex. 34:6-7

B. Ps. 107

C. Our proper response to His goodness – Ps. 116:12-17

1. Vs. 13 – I will accept the salvation He offers
 - a) Rom. 2:4
2. Vs. 14 – I will keep my vows to God
3. Vs. 17 – I will offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving.
4. Ps. 34:8

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

A. Have we gotten hold of this simple but profound truth?

- B. The consummate passage on this is Ps. 139
- C. Listen to how A.W. Tozer puts this
- D. Because God knows all about me, I can have great assurances:

IV. We Must Continually Remind Ourselves What We Truly Deserve

- A. Our society tries to convince us that we deserve health, wealth, and happiness.
- B. What we truly deserve is God's judgment on our sin.
- C. We need the attitude of the Apostle Paul in Rom. 7:18.
- D. We need the attitude of Jacob.
- E. We need the attitude of the prodigal son.

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

- A. That plan is different for each one of us.
- B. This is true when it comes to ministry also.
- C. This principle is true in all areas of life.

VI. We Must Continually Remind Ourselves What constitutes True Riches.

- A. True riches are not material things.
- B. Paul deals with this in Eph. 1
- C. Two quotes from Burroughs that help illustrate understanding true riches.