

## 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

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.