

happiness is...



Pastor Paul Chappell
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TITLE: Happiness Is Contentment

“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. 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. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:6-10)

“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

INTRODUCTION _____

1. The _____ of Contentment

A. It Is the Fruit of _____

Quote: “The practice of godliness is an exercise or discipline that focuses upon God. From this Godward attitude arises the character and conduct that we usually think of as godliness.”

—**Jerry Bridges**

“But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. ⁸ For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

Quote: “Contentment, then, is the product of a heart resting in God. It is the soul’s enjoyment of that peace that passes all understanding.”—**A.W. Pink**

FINANCIAL CONTENTMENT

“And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? ¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. ²⁰ But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹ So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”
(Luke 12:16-21)

CIRCUMSTANTIAL CONTENTMENT

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

B. It Is True _____

Quote: “Contentment is not self-sufficiency, as the Greeks understood it, but Christ-sufficiency, as he [Paul] so memorably stated to the Phillipians.”—**Kent Hughes**

2. The _____ of Misplaced Love

A. _____

Quote: “A spirit of entitlement robs us of happiness and God of glory.”

ARE TEMPTED

ARE SNARED

B. _____

“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? ² Ye lust,

and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (James 4:1-3)

C. _____

“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.” (Joshua 7:21)

D. _____

LOVE OF MONEY IS ROOT OF EVIL

“Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, And not to covetousness.” (Psalm 119:36)

LOVE OF MONEY CAN PULL YOU FROM TRUTH

Quote: “Planning is often good and necessary, but we should never plan as if we control the outcome.”—**Randy Alcorn**

“Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: ¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. ¹⁵ For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. ¹⁶ But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.” (James 4:13-16)

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5)

Quote: “Discontentment makes rich men poor, while contentment makes poor men rich.”—**Benjamin Franklin**

3. The _____ of Stewardship

A. To Build Trust in the _____

“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” (Psalm 37:25)

“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. ¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. ¹² O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.” (Psalm 84:10-12)

B. To Develop Heavenly _____

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:1-2)

C. To Find _____

AS WE GIVE TO OTHERS

“...It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

AS WE FIX OUR HEART ON GOD

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:11-13)

CONCLUSION _____

