

Series: Hebrews

Lesson #: 63

Title: Contentment Rests Here

Scripture: Hebrews 13: 5, 6

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Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, New Jersey

Hebrews 13: 5: *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. 6: So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

In his book "The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment" Jeremiah Burroughs gives this description of 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.* You can see why contentment is, indeed, a rare jewel.

Hebrews 13: 5: *Let your conversation be without covetousness...*

Covetousness is the opposite of contentment

Did you know covetousness crucified the Lord Jesus Christ?

You remember how the king of Assyria is symbolic of Satan and those who hate Christ. God allowed him to enter Israel and destroy Samaria. Did that satisfy him? Then what did he do? **Isaiah 10:11: Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols?**

The very root of covetousness is evil against God. It is the want of self-sufficiency apart from God. That is why the Holy Spirit tells us: **1Timothy 6:10: 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.**

Covetousness wants the opposite of God--the opposite of what God has given, what God has said, what God has performed, what God is doing--it is the desire to dethrone God and set ourselves in his place. That is why the Lord said so clearly: **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. 14: And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.**

Covetousness is the opposite of God and truth and therefore the Psalmist prayed thus: **Psalm 119:36: Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.**

Since covetousness opposes God, covetousness is, also, the opposite of brotherly love.
The commandment says, **Exodus 20:17: 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.**

What contentment, what love, is there in desiring your neighbor's house, or his wife, or his servants, or anything that is thy neighbors?

Illustration: Yet, the motto of our generation: "I am gonna get what's mine!"

We set those up on pedestals who have obtained great riches through this wicked desire of the heart. **Psalm 10: 3: For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.**

Hebrews 13: 5: Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have:

John the Baptist, under the Holy Spirit, gave this definition of contentment:

Luke 3: 12: Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? 13: And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. 14: And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

Be content with such things as ye have:

When you hear these definitions of contentment do you see yourself as being more covetous than content?

This is one of the ways that the Lord gives us this rare jewel of contentment. As we begin to realize how covetous we are rather than content. We have to ask ourselves why is the Lord so gracious to me, in spite of me? It is because of what the believer has.

- I have a Father and a Savior in glory who does not remember my sin any more
- I have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus my Substitute
- I have been made joint-heirs with Christ.
- I have been born again...**unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (I Peter 1: 3-5.)**

and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

The triune God who made heaven and earth and all things hath said to you who believe, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

Let's look at what the Lord promised a few of our brethren:

Jacob--Genesis 28: 10: And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11: And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for* his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12: And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13: And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14: And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15: And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of. 16: And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew *it* not. 17: And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful *is* this place! *this is* none other but the house of God, and *this is* the gate of heaven. 18: And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put *for* his pillows, and set it up *for* a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19: And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city *was called* Luz at the first. 20: And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21: So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22: And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Joshua 1: 5: There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 6: Be strong and of a good courage:

David--Psalm 37:23: The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. 24: Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him with* his hand. 25: I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. 26: *He is* ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed *is* blessed. 27: Depart from evil, (David is speaking of the evil of covetousness and all its fruit) and do good (be content and trust God); and dwell for evermore. 28: For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

The LORD loveth judgment--the LORD loves that which is right--Christ is our Seal that the LORD of the whole earth will do us right.

Romans 8: 32: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

- He freely gave his Son
- His Son freely gave his life to purchase all things for us
- How shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8; 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is God that justifieth.* 34: *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

- Satan has nothing to accuse you of before God--God himself justified you.
- There is now no condemnation because Christ condemned the condemnation through his death.
- If someone wants to lay charge with you they have to take it up with your Advocate, with your Counsellor, at the right hand of God, who ever liveth to intercede for you.

Romans 8: 35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* 36: *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.* 37: *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.* 38: *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life,*

- He put away our sin--death has no claim, no sting, for us--we have life eternal.
- Christ is our Life. **I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, the life I now live I live through the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.**
- If Christ is the Life in us, the struggles of this life can never overcome us, because he has overcome the world. Greater is he that is in you than is in the world.
- **Romans 14:8: For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.**

Romans 8: 38:...nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature,

- These are the things we are up against in this life--Ephesians 6:11: Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12: *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*
- But here is our Armor--Colossians 2:15: The Captain of our Salvation--And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it; 1 Peter 3:22: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Romans 8: 39: So who...shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the judgment which the covenant God of our salvation loves. Contentment rests right here: **1 Corinthians 3: 21:...all things are yours;...23: And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.**

Hebrews 13: 5: 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. 6: So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Do you know why the Lord gives us such admonitions as: let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have? Because as we continually behold our inability to perform his instruction we continually turn from this world and go to him.

- **Hebrews 4:16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**
- **Hebrews 10:19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,**
- **Ephesians 3:12: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.**

And we you come right down to it--calling on Him is having the full assurance of faith that Christ will do everything for me and this is the obedience we are called unto. That is why we are given these admonitions throughout scripture is to bring us to call on him, to confess to him that we are trusting him alone to do this for us. Then in Him, we find this contentment.

So that we may boldly say, (say with full assurance) The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

One last word about Him: He is not a help in the sense that he will work with you in a co-effort if you will work with him. If that was ever the case we would have no hope at all and no contentment ever!

- If Christ is your Helper then it is not that he helps you NOT be covetous but that He is the cure for your covetousness.
- It is not that Christ will lend a hand to help you to be content but Christ Jesus is both the great inexhaustible Mine and the Rare Jewel of contentment, Himself!
- The LORD did not say to Abraham I will help, by giving you a shield and by giving you a reward. The LORD said, **Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and [I am] thy exceeding great reward** (Genesis 15: 1.)
- **Deuteronomy 33:29: Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency!**
- **Psalms 18:1: <<To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said,>>I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and**

my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

The quote here in Hebrews verse 6 is from Psalm 118: 6: **The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? 7: The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see *my desire* upon them that hate me. 8: *It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.***

Psalm 27:1: <<A Psalm of David.>> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

I WILL TELL YOU WHAT MAN DOES TO US--OURSELVES AND OTHERS.

It is called "peer pressure", "keeping up with the Joneses", being "conformed to this world." We make ourselves think we really need whatever it is we do not have.

What I am about to say is not to be used as an excuse for our own rebellion, or laziness, or a matter of blind-fatalism. But if you do not have something right now--even though I may think I should have it--even though I may think it would be more honorable for me to have it--even though I may think I could honor Christ more if I had it--the truth is, if I do not have it right now, I am not supposed to have it right now.

If it would bring honor to God's darling Son for us to have whatever it is that he has withheld or to be without whatever it is he has given us, our heavenly Father would provide it for the sake of his Son's glory. Contentment rests right here

Illustration: Even as bad as Uncle Laban treated Jacob, he knew why he was being blessed! **Genesis 30: 25: And it came to pass, when Rachel had born Joseph, that Jacob said unto Laban, Send me away, that I may go unto mine own place, and to my country. 26: Give *me* my wives and my children, for whom I have served thee, and let me go: for thou knowest my service which I have done thee. 27: And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, *tarry: for* I have learned by experience that the LORD hath blessed me for thy sake.**

Nothing wrong with asking God for wisdom in the matter, nothing wrong with asking our brethren or talking to brethren for encouragement in the matter--that is why God has joined himself with us and our brethren. But we do not go to the lengths Uncle Laban went to get it do we? His was not contentment but covetousness.

Contentment rests right here. **Hebrews 13: 5: *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. 6: So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.***