

FBC Devotion Thursday September 17 2020 1 Timothy 6:6-8 Contentment

It's a real test to be content in the unprecedented times we are currently in. Due to Coronavirus, life has been turned pretty well upside down. Stores have been closed, events have been cancelled, we have been urged to stay inside. Is it possible to be content, even in times such as this?

Choosing to be content is one of the basic principles of Christianity, learning to be satisfied in God above all other things. My prayer is that you will be able to say that and mean it.

Godliness is not a means to financial gain; rather godliness with contentment is great gain in and of itself. And that's what Paul says in verses 6-8. **"But godliness with contentment is great gain."**

The word **"contentment"** here speaks of having a sufficiency, or, having enough. At some point in our lives, we need to decide which of these two words will rule our life when it comes to having things: either **"more"** or **"enough."**

Why? Because if our lives are ruled by the word **"more,"** no matter how much we get, then we will always want more – whether you earn \$30,000 a year or \$3 million. It makes no difference. There are plenty of millionaires out there who have everything they could possibly want or need, and yet they still want more.

The other word you can choose is the word "enough." And guess what? If you choose to let the word **"enough"** rule your life when it comes to having things, then no matter how much or how little you have, you will always be satisfied and content. Choosing contentment means deciding that you will let go of the word **"more"** in your life and hold on to the word **"enough."**

Paul talks about this in another passage on contentment. He says, **"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."** (Philippians 4:11-12) There's nothing wrong with working to improve your situation in life. What is wrong is when you feel you must have more in order to be content.

We really don't need a lot in order to be content or to have enough in life. That's what Paul says in verses 7-8. "For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

What did we bring with you into this world when we were born? Nothing! What will we take with us from this world when we die? **Nothing! You can't take it with you.** As the saying goes, you never see a hearse towing a U-Haul. He who dies with the most toys does not win, because you don't get to take your toys with you when you die.

How does Paul define having enough? "If we have food and clothing, we will be content with that." The word food here is the general word for sustenance, so it would mean sufficient food and drink to sustain life.

Part of doing church together is choosing contentment, being satisfied with God and with what He has given us in Christ. Being thankful for the many blessings we already have, seeking to live a godly life that pleases God in every way. We really don't need a lot. What we do need is God, so Paul writes, **"Godliness with contentment is great gain."**