

# 1 Timothy 6:3-10, 17-19

## Contentment

### RD V.3-6

**Intro: Throughout the letter of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy Paul has been dealing with the issue of the false teachers.**

A) Those men who had invaded the Church in Ephesus

B) Here in his closing comments in Ch.6 He returns to the subject once again in vs. 3-5

C) He describes them as being **REBELLIOUS**: they don't consent to the words of Christ.

1) They contradict and ignore the teachings of Jesus

Cc) **PROUD**: JB Phillips – “They have an inflated opinion of themselves”

D) **Men of Corrupt minds**: Resulting in disputes, strife and division!

1)

E) **THEIR MOTIVE**: They view godliness as a means of great gain! –

**The Prosperity teachers of today would fall into that same category.**

A) They use the ministry to pad their own pocket books

B) Completely ignoring the heart of Jesus – when he said – I didn't come to be served but to serve.

**There is a more subtle form in the Church today of the concept that godliness is a means of great gain.**

A) See very commonly Christianity is presented today on the basis of what you will *gain* by following Jesus:

B) **Such as**: personal success and happiness, a stronger family, a more secure life.

1) These things may be true to some degree, but we must never “market” the gospel as a “product” that will “fix” these things in your life.

C) **Problems**: When the gospel is presented that way, it makes followers of Jesus who are completely unprepared for tough times!

D) People who get disillusioned and walk away from faith in Christ – when those things don't happen the way that they thought they were going to.

**This approach also takes the focus off Jesus Himself, and puts the focus on what He will give us.**

A) So Many have their hearts set on the blessings, not the One who blesses us.

B) Now we shouldn't ignore the blessings of following Jesus Christ,

1) But we must proclaim the need to follow Jesus because He is God, and we owe Him everything as our **Creator- and our Redeemer!**

**C) What is right before God, and what glorifies Him, is more important than whatever benefit we gain.**

1) We need to see Christians who are more concerned with what glorifies God than with what benefits them.

**D) That type of teaching is becoming more and more popular today in the Church**

1) And is a subtle form of what Paul is referring to here.

**The Problem in Paul's day was not subtle at all.**

**A) It was Blatant and for that reason –**

**Paul declares in v. 5 Withdraw yourself from such people.**

**B) Now Paul wants to set the record Straight on the subject of **Godliness and Gain.****

**C) v.6 *Godliness with Contentment is great gain.***

**Contentment is an interesting concept in the Bible:** **A) It is a concept that a lot of Christians are confused about.**

**B) Talk about Contentment today: First describe what it is not!**

1) **It is not** Laziness or selfishness. **It is not** complacency.

**C) Not describing one who lacks vision.**

**It is not** “Winnie the Pooh in the 100 acre wood, after polishing off a whole jar of honey, & then plops himself down against a tree for a sticky, satisfying nap.” (Swindoll)

**D) Beach in Maui - / fishing on a quiet lake**

1) So often that is our view of contentment – so we look forward to vacations or retirement – pursue those things

**E) But what that means is that contentment **is only occasional** – something we wait 60 yrs for**

1) That is not the way that God wants us to live !

**But the word contentment has a completely different idea attached to it in the Bible.**

**A) It was used in the first century to describe a country that was self supporting**

**B) A country who didn't have to rely on outside imports for their survival**

**C) **Spiritually speaking** - **It is** an attitude of the mind, independent of externals, & dependent only on God**

**Phil.4:11-13 “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

**D) It describes a frame of mind and attitude of the heart – that is satisfied in Jesus!**

David expressed his contentment in the Lord in Psalm 23 when he declared: “The Lord is my shepherd I shall not be in want (lack)”

A) If a person is content you won’t hear them always saying, “Someday I will” (have a new house, or be a such & such, etc.)

*It is when one does not live by the itch for more*

B) If a person is content they won’t be eaten up with envy over someone else’s achievements.

C) If a person is content they are truly grateful for what they have.

D) Contentment is being satisfied in the Lord and with where he has you

1) And Confidence that He is going to continue to lead your life and work in your life.

2) Accomplish his purpose for you / in you / with you!

E) You **believe that** so passionately that you pursue Jesus with Gusto & fervency! **DESPERATE**

1) Contentment in Jesus is ACTIVE – Pursuing

MY WIFE !{ So Content { Actively pursuing!

**That is the Biblical view of contentment:**

A) Now if we are looking for contentment in any other thing – you are going to be disappointed

B) Here is why? – Paul gives Several reasons Rdv.7,8

**7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.**

A) See If our contentment lies in wealth or any other earthly possession, we’re in for a *big disappointment.*

B) Reason #1 You can’t take it with you!

*You’ve heard all the sayings* “Ever see a hearse pulling a U-Haul ?” “Ever see a shroud with pockets?”

Or the one about the guy who **was able** to smuggle in some **gold** & when the angels saw it they asked why he brought Asphalt with him?”

C) Job said, Job 1:21 “**Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return.**”

Solomon declared, “**As he came from his mother’s womb, naked shall he return, to go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor which he may carry away in his hand.**” Eccl.5:15

**We came into this world carrying nothing, wearing nothing, & owning nothing.**

A) And that is the way that we are going to leave it!

As an American millionaire was dying, his heirs waited outside his room.

When the doctor and lawyer finally came out, the heirs eagerly asked, “**How much did he leave?**”

And the lawyer said, “He left everything. He didn’t take anything with him.”

**B) That is reason #1 why we will not be satisfied if we pursue contentment in anything but Jesus!**

1) You can’t take it with you!

**E) We come into the world empty-handed, and that is the way we leave it.**

1) the things which make a man rich in this world mean nothing in the world to come.

**Reason#2 Other pursuits at contentment don’t satisfy! NO SATISFACTION! V.9-10**

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

**A) Now the issue that Paul is addressing in these verses is trying to find contentment in Riches**

**B) Paul says those who desire to be rich – fall into a **TRAP!****

**C) It leads people into many foolish and harmful lust which **drown men into destruction.****

1) Like a swimming with a weight tied to you in the ocean – constantly pulls you down – Drown

**I have known so many young people who were on fire for the Lord**

**A) Go off to college – start pursuing a degree –**

**Consume them- **Fire starts to dwindle****

**B) After college: Career – start working / climbing the ladder –**

1) They end up with a well-paying job, they get caught up in the pursuit of more and turn away from the faith.

**C) They lost the center of life, the very purpose of living, forgetting the God who is behind all things.**

**Solomon Fell into that trap! He was one who sought contentment and satisfaction in a variety of ways.**

1) **Pleasure:** Means to pursue every form of Pleasure-

**Ultimate party animal! – Every Pleasure imaginable – End Result: VANTIY VANITY**

**After Pleasure: Sought Wealth – He attained it – Wealthiest man of his Generation.**

**A) Same Result – Vanity!!!!!!! Worthless/ Empty**

**B) Sought Fame:** Kings from all over came annually to pay him tribute and give gifts

1) Queen of Sheba traveled 1500 miles – trade partner

C) **Result: Solomon- Not content in that either**

**D) Sought wisdom and Knowledge – Achieved it**

1) Result – Vanity

**People do the same thing today!**

A) Young – Pleasure!

B) Older: Wealth – get stuff – accumulate possessions

CREDIT CARD DEBT

Newsweek: 60 percent of Americans spend more annually than their income, U.S. consumers are a combined \$7.3 trillion in debt

New Stereo – Better speakers – better speakers – new couches -

Happiness is not based on **money** and the greatest proof of that is **our family!** -- Christina Onassis

C) **Fame: Move up the ladder at work –**

1) Go to guy or Gal!

D) Knowledge: Education expansion –

**End result all Vanity ! – Doesn't do the job**

A) There are millions of people who are caught up in that snare – the trap – Contentment in Wealth

B) Contentment in stuff – Fame –

**C) It is a Trap / a snare - You always want more – Never Satisfied !**

D) Satan keeps you going from one thing to the next !

Ray Stedman: Destination sickness as the common illness of our day.

Destination sickness is arriving at your destination, being where you have always wanted to be, having everything you always wanted to have, but not being satisfied with anything that you have.

Thousands of people around this area today are suffering from this.

**Now before we go any further – Understand Paul does not say that having money is evil –**

A) The Love of money is the root of all evil

B) See Money is amoral, neither good nor bad

1) Money itself is not the problem; our attitude toward it is.

C) Possessions are not bad – unless they possess you

1) **It's not what we have but what has us!**

## **D) The Love of money is the root of all evil!**

Think of it - what sin will people not commit for the sake of money?

### **The love of money can motivate any evil on this earth.**

**A) Murder / Rape / Prostitution – selling babies / drugs – Love the of Money!**

**B) And People who think riches are going to bring lasting contentment – will be sorely disappointed,**

Now we are going to skip down to Verse 17, because in the intervening paragraph the apostle deals with Timothy personally in a great passage which we will take next Sunday to close out our study.

### **But in V.17-19 Paul adds a postscript, that answers the question**

**A) So what if you are already rich? How do you view your wealth? "How should an affluent person act?"**

**B) Paul answers in two realms -- a rich man's attitudes, and his actions. First, his attitudes. Verse 17:**

**Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.**

### **3 Attitudes:**

#### **1) Be Humble:**

**A) If wealth makes a person proud, then he understands neither himself nor his wealth.**

**Deut 8:18**

**"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth."**

**B) If wealth Know this: it is because God has blessed you with a good Job**

**C) Or He has blessed you with an ability as an entrepreneur to make money**

**1) We are not owners; we are stewards. Wealth to take care of and to use !**

**D) So If you have wealth, it is by the goodness of God and not because of any special merits on our part.**

**1) Be Humble -**

#### **2) Trust God, not wealth (v. 17b).**

**A) It is easy when you have means to not exercise faith – Write a Check – easy to rely on your wealth –**

**B) Paul says don't do that – notice he calls it uncertain riches – Gone tomorrow !**

C) Riches are uncertain, not only in their value (**which changes constantly**), but also in their durability.

1) Thieves can steal wealth, investments can drop in value, and the ravages of time can ruin houses and cars

**D) The rich farmer in our Lord's parable (Luke 12) thought that his wealth meant security,**

1) when really it was an evidence of insecurity. He was not really trusting God.

**NOT RICH TOWARD GOD - PERSON OF FAITH !**

**Living life for the Lord is exciting - Live by faith:**

**A) If God gives us wealth, we should trust Him, the Giver, and not the gifts.**

**B) The founder of the Quaker Oats Company, did just that!**

1) As a young man he prayed *Lord, 'I'm going to start a business and of whatever money it makes, I will keep 10% and give You 90%.'*

C) he kept his word and died a wealthy man even though he gave nine cents of every dime to the Lord.

D) Get involved – Live the life of Faith – trust God

**3) Enjoy what God gives you (v. 17c).**

**A) Yes, the word enjoy is in the Bible!**

**B) In fact, one of the recurring themes in Eccl is:**

1) “Enjoy the blessings of life now, because life will end one day”

C) It is simply enjoying all that God gives us for His glory.

**Is it wrong for someone who is rich to drive a nice car or live in a nice house? – Not at all.**

**A) It is all relative- Some buys a 50,000 dollar car – but to them and their finances – like most of us buying a 10,000 car**

**B) They can afford it ! – “Well it seems excessive to me”**

1) Then we should all drive used beat up VW's

C) Paul says to the rich it is ok for you to enjoy your riches – not bad – not sinful -

**Attitudes:**

**So Be humble / make sure your faith and confidence is in the Lord not your wealth / then Enjoy it**

Nut Shell

See your possessions as **belonging** to God & **given** by Him for His Glory & our enjoyment.

**Actions: Enjoy your wealth & employ your wealth**

**18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.**

**A) Employ: Use what God gives you for His glory and to bless His people**

**B) Can't take it with you so send it ahead!**

**You should use your wealth to do good to others; put your money to work.**

**A) When you do, you enrich yourself spiritually, and you make investments for the future.**

**B) God blesses some people with an ability to make money for this reason: Bless others “**

**C) There's more contentment in helping than in hoarding;**

**1) In releasing, than in keeping!**

**D) It is more blessed to give than to receive” said Jesus...& He ought to know!!! Acts 20:35**

**Here's a heart test on how you are doing with finances?**

**Q: What's your 1<sup>st</sup> thought when a windfall blows your way? “What can I get, or What can I give?”**

**There is a 2-fold outcome for the giver**

[1] The giver lays up eternal treasure for the **coming age**.

[2] The giver lays hold of eternal life **here & now**.

“That they may lay hold on the life that is real” would express it perfectly.

Bottom line

Contentment isn't found in a **place**; its' in a **person**! **Be rich in Christ!**