



Contentment and Desires

“Let your conduct (lifestyle) be without covetousness (love of money). For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

“ Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, “Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.” (Psalm 35:27)

1. These two verses seem contradictory.
2. The greatest possession in life is Jesus. It is eternal.
3. Second greatest is godly wisdom. It is also eternal.
 - a. Your foundation for future blessings is a relaxed and content attitude about your present life in Jesus Christ, AND...
 - b. Keep growing in the Word and giving, expecting generous returns.
 - c. God looks for contented Christian to bless with more.
4. Contentment – The greatest possessions in life are not things.
5. Do not settle into contentment and forget your desires.
 - a. God gave you the ability to desire more of life.
 - b. Contentment is the stability that keeps your desires in check.
 - c. Contentment is the proper foundation for your desires to be built on.
 - d. Contentment is your guarantee of durable riches.

There Are Always People Who Have More than Us and Some Who Have Less

1. The Bible speaks of the very wealthy and the very poor.
2. The Bible seems to be addressed primarily to those in between – the middle income of every society.
3. Wealthy – you – poor (misers)

4. The free-market system produces a large middle and upper middle class. God would love to fill it with prosperous believers who will freely use the income to help spread the gospel.
5. What should your attitude be toward both the poor and rich?

“When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you; and put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite. Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food.

Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease!

Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.

Do not eat the bread of a miser, nor desire his delicacies.” (Proverbs 23:1-6)

1. A desire to be like the very rich or the miser are examples of the love of money.
2. It is probable that neither are happy or content.

If You Keep Seeking Wisdom – She Has Two Hands

“Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.” (Proverbs 3:13-16)

1. The right hand is the prominent hand.
2. The right hand contains health. The left contains wealth.
3. God wants you to live long enough to enjoy the wealth.

Wisdom Has Always Had Two Hands

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” (Ephesians 6:1-3)

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” (3 John 2)

Seek the Wisdom, Not the Hands

1. Solomon told us to seek after wisdom because it is the primary thing to attain (Proverbs 4:5-7, 16:16).
2. Jesus told us to seek the kingdom first, THEN all these things (long life, prosperity) would be added to us (Matthew 6:33).

“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:7)

Never Stop Seeking Wisdom

1. Pursuit of wisdom lasts a lifetime.
 - a. Never rest from learning. There is no neutral.
 - b. Friends and/or family may forsake you. Jesus will not.
 - c. After being forsaken by everyone, Paul asked for his parchments and coat in prison.
2. If you never quit seeking wisdom, God will never quit giving you the desires of your heart.
3. Many who used to seek wisdom have stopped to rely and rest on their reserves.
 - a. Stopped study and prayer.
 - b. Slowed or stopped church attendance.
4. Desires – Give you the desires of your heart (Proverbs 23:1-6).
5. Don't settle into contentment (false humility) and forget your desires.
6. Seek wisdom all your life and riches, honor, and long life will be your reward.
7. Keep growing in wisdom. There is no limit.
 - a. Keep setting goals for your life.
 - b. Keep sowing and expecting increase.
 - c. Use prosperity for the gospel and your family.