

Being Content!

S.R. 1Tim.6:6-10, Phi.4:11-13

Introduction – One of the most serious obstacles to Christianity is materialism, which is really the love of money & what it can buy for us! Our young people are growing up with only one goal – acquiring wealth. The success behind this attitude is largely dependent upon 2 things,

1. Little or no knowledge of God in the wider community, and
2. The exploitation of lust, desire, greed & self-gratification.

Advertising capitalizes on the weakness of human beings by convincing us that the things we desire are really things we need. And, because these ‘things’ are newer, bigger, faster, different, have more features or just more expensive, we allow ourselves to be taught that we will be ‘better off’ or, better people! The most successful phrase in modern advertising must be, “You owe it to yourself” or “Go ahead, you deserve it”! The whole point of advertising is to make you ‘discontent’ with what you have and deceive you into thinking that *happiness* lies in seeking what you don’t have!

The Christian must learn to be content & remain content in this world and avoid the deceitfulness of riches! Psa.37:16, 52:7, Mat.13:22, Luk.8:14, Mar.4:19

How Can We Become and Remain Content?

1. Everything in this world will perish. Nothing lasts! 2Pet.3:10-12, Prov.23:5
2. Be honest about your desires and learn to control them. Gen.4:7, 2Co.12:10, Jam.4:1-4
3. Desire spiritual things, not worldly! Mat.5:6, 6:19-21, 2Co.6:14, 1Joh.2:15
4. Allow God to teach you! Phi.4:11-13, Col.3:16
5. Believe that God LOVES you! Joh.3:16-19, Mar.10:21, Joh.14:21
6. Believe that He gives us all we need! Mat.6:31-32, Psa.22:26, Heb.13:5-6
7. Learn to Love & Trust God completely! Mat.22:37-40, Psa.145:16, Psa.5:11, Psa.9:10
8. Learn to please Him & not yourself! Eph.4:9-10, Heb.11:6

When we learn & practice these things we will become content!

Summary

Christians must comprehend that God gives us everything we need to complete this life in His service. We must not measure or compare our blessings by the standard of the world, for that is incompatible with God! He decides when, where & how much He blesses us. *It is at His discretion!* He has promised to us eternal life, which is not promised to the world! He calls us His children! *What more do you want?* Are you content to be his child & entrusted with His work?

NAU 2 Corinthians 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

Definitions

Content – to be content is to be sufficient, possessed of sufficient strength, be strong, to have enough for a thing; hence to defend, ward off.

Contentment – satisfaction with what one has.

Godliness – Godly, devout, Godly attitude, be pleasing to God.

Materialism – desire for & acquisition & retention (keep) material possessions, things that are lifeless.

Selfishness – desire to please oneself.