



CHEERFUL GODLINESS "The Contentment of Godliness" 1 Timothy 6:3-10

No. 4130

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The heretical teachers were apparently extorting exorbitant amounts of money from the church using "godliness" as a means to "financial gain." Paul repudiated their activities but used the opportunity to show the "great gain" of "godliness with contentment."

I. Godliness with Contentment Is Great Gain.

- A. The significance of contentment. (Gk "autarkeia")
 1. That which is sufficient enough.
 2. Satisfaction with enough—enough is enough.
- B. The synergy of godliness and contentment.
 1. Godliness relates everything to the presence of an awesome God.
 2. Our awesome God graciously provides all we need. See 2 Corinthians 9:8
 3. Godly contentment. See Philippians 4:11-13
- C. The school of contentment. See Philippians 4:11-13
 1. Lesson #1: We brought nothing into this world.
 2. Lesson #2: We will take nothing out. (Shrouds have no pockets!)
 3. Lesson #3: What we are and not what we have is important.
 4. Lesson #4: So we'll be satisfied with necessities not luxuries.

"To whom little is not enough, nothing is enough." Epicurus

II. Greediness and Selfishness Bring Great Pain.

- A. "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." v. 10
 1. It brings its own temptations and sets its own traps.
 2. It creates many foolish and harmful desires.
 3. It plunges people into ruin (temporal) and destruction (eternal).
- B. People "eager for money" run the risk of:
 1. Wandering from the faith.
 2. Piercing themselves with many griefs. v. 10

III. Goodness and Generosity Are Never Shared in Vain.

- A. Those of us who have been blessed with more than enough should:
 1. Not be arrogant.
 2. Not put our hope in wealth.
 3. Put our confidence in God.
 4. Do good.
 5. Be generous.
 6. Be willing to share.
- B. Those of us who do this will:
 1. Lay up treasures in heaven.
 2. Take hold of life that is truly life.

Point to Ponder: Does my godliness reach to my credit cards?