

Hebrews 13:5-6 *Let your conversation [lifestyle] be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he [Jesus] hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

I. Introduction

A. Discontented spirit is spirit of this age

1. Anxiety can come from COVID 19, wars, droughts, etc.
2. Social distancing can be uncomfortable

B. God gave comfort to early believers

C. Christians today can be content & settled in Jesus

1. Jesus is always steadfast
2. Jesus is always there with comfort

II. Resist Covetousness

A. What is covetousness?

1. Covetousness is demanding desire for someone else's "things"

Exodus 20:17 *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife¹, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.*

2. Not satisfied with your life, or always wanting something more

Ecclesiastes 5:10 *He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.*

3. Never enough, example of being compared to a blood leech

Proverbs 30:15, 16 *The horse-leech hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough.*

4. Idolatry

Colossians 3:5 *Mortify [put to death] therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence [desire], **and covetousness, which is idolatry:***

¹ In this instance, coveting the wife is not in reference to lust, but rather to the amount of service, or talent, or attitude that the wife (or, by application, a husband) may display. Lust is addressed in the seventh commandment (Exodus 20:14).

B. In our lifestyle

1. Negative aspects

- a. Wishing for a lifestyle that you do not have
- b. “Busy-ness” is looking over your neighbor’s fence
- c. Not willing to accept current circumstances as given by God
- d. Temporal (temporary) satisfaction does not fill inner longings

2. Positive aspects

- a. Resist comparisons with other people & their circumstances
- b. Happiness not dependent on income or where you live
- c. Trust in the living God

1 Timothy 6:17 *Charge them that are* [Command people who are] *rich in this world, that they be not highminded* [conceited], *nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

C. In our heart

1. Check your own heart for love of money, which can be a greedy monster.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 *But they that will* [want to] *be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition* [fate you cannot escape]. *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

2. Have a thankful heart

1 Thessalonians 5:18 ***In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***

III. Remain Content

A. Learn contentment

1. God’s waiting time is not God’s wasting time
2. Learn godliness first

1 Timothy 6:6-7 ***But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.***

B. Because God has provided in the past

1. Example of Moses' instructions to Joshua

Deuteronomy 31:8 *And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed* [frustrated by all the responsibility].

2. Contentment is finding satisfaction in Jesus' presence

Philippians 4:11 *Not that I [Paul] speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state [situation] I am, therewith to be content.*

3. God provided food for His people

Psalms 37:25 *I [David] have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed [children] begging [for] bread.*

4. Remember God's past blessings

C. Because God from the beginning has provided for the future

1. God feeds the wild animals & clothes the flowers of the fields

Luke 12:24, 27, *Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls [ravens]? ... Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed [clothed] like one of these.*

2. God is also able to feed & clothe you

Matthew 6:31, 33 *Therefore take no thought [don't worry], saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal [how] shall we be clothed? ... But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [food, drink, clothing] shall be added unto you.*

IV. Rest in Jesus Christ

A. Rest in my soul to calm my fears

1. David found the same calmness in the Lord

Psalms 27:1 *A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

2. Perfect love of my Savior throws out my fear

Psalms 118:6 *The LORD is on my side; **I will not fear**: what can man do unto me?*

B. By remembering His presence

1. In hope of eternal life

Titus 1:2 ***In hope of eternal life***, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

2. Lord promised to be with Joshua

Joshua 1:9 *Have not I [God] commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed [frustrated by all the responsibility]: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

3. Three young men put their total trust in their living God in the fiery furnace

Daniel 3:16-18 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful [afraid] to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, [It may happen that] our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand [control], O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

C. By remembering His provision

1. God saves us by His mercy

Titus 3:5 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration [to be born again], and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

2. Jesus is with us even to the end of the age

Matthew 28:20 *Teaching them [new disciples] to observe all things whatsoever I [Jesus] have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

3. No one can successfully be against us if God is for us

Romans 8:31 *What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?***

V. Conclusion:

A. Jesus followed through on His promise to give His life on the cross

1. Jesus promised that He would lay down His life voluntarily

John 10:17-18 *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. **No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself.** I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

2. Pilate thought that he had the power of death & life over Jesus

John 19:10-11 *Then saith Pilate unto him [Jesus], Speakest thou not unto [Why won't you talk to] me? knowest thou not [don't you know] that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee [Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin] hath the greater sin.*

3. When Jesus died, He gave His life

John 19:30 *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost [died].*

B. Promise of the Lord Jesus

1. Jesus promises salvation

Acts 2:21 *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

2. Jesus promises life

1 John 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*