

Verses: 1 Timothy 6:6-9 ESV

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

A life centred on God is great gain. It is a rich, fulfilling life that no amount of money can buy.

The Amplified version says, ⁶But godliness *actually* is a source of great gain when accompanied by contentment [that contentment which comes from a sense of inner confidence based on the sufficiency of God]. Contentment is a quiet confidence in God that produces peace, joy, and gratitude; it is a settled state that comes from orienting your life around the person of Jesus and His teachings. The good news is that we can grow in contentment if we apply ourselves to it.

This passage and Jesus' teachings in Matthew 6 expose the primary rival to such a life of contentment, and that is the desire for wealth. The love of money is a source of all kinds of evil. It will draw you into a trap, into foolish and harmful desires and plunge you into ruin and destruction. And yet it is tantalisingly sugar coated. In Mark's gospel he describes it as "the false glamour and deceitfulness of riches" (Mark 4:19 AMPC).

If someone offered you heroin, you would have the common sense, unless already under its sway, to reject it outright, knowing the ruin and destruction it will cause; and yet many Christians are unaware of the dangers of desiring to be rich. Mark goes on to say, "the craving and passionate desire for other things creep in and choke and suffocate the Word, and it becomes fruitless."

If the Word is not bearing fruit in your life, or if you do not have peace in your soul, do a check on who is really your Lord. Is your life centred on Jesus or on financial success and gain. What occupies your thought life? Our affection ought to be set on Jesus and our meditation on His truths and promises. He holds our destiny in His hands and He promises to take care of us. With food and clothing we should be content.

Let us centre our lives on God and follow Him, entrusting all the rest into His hands. Seek first His kingdom and righteousness and He promises to take care of you. He knows what you need and is a good Father; only, seek Him!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me to be content with my present circumstances and put my trust in You. I repent of being anxious about my life and future and I choose to lean my whole being on You in childlike faith. Thank you that You're a good Father who knows my needs and cares about me. Lead me in Your truth and Your ways today, in Jesus' name. Amen.