

The Rewards of Contentment

Pastor's Desk – November 26, 2017



Have you ever stopped to think about the word contentment? What is the Biblical meaning of contentment and why is it so relevant for us to know it today? Let's see what is in the Greek New Testament. The Greek word for contentment is αὐτάρκεια (autarkeia) meaning "self-satisfaction." Abstractly this means contentedness, or concretely it is a competence to live in contentment and/or sufficiency. In a few words: it's a God-given competence or ability to make the most out of what I have been blessed with and to keep a healthy perspective in life.

We learn in 1 Timothy 6:6: "And religion does make your life rich, by making you content with what you have." (CEV) or 1 Timothy 6:6: "But godliness with contentment is a great gain." (ESV) Having a devout life is a key element for a godly life, and we learn to have that self-satisfaction, self-sufficiency, and act content with God's provision for us--it's great gain! We also read in Proverbs 14:30: "It's healthy to be content, but envy can eat you up." (CEV) Content people are healthy people! And there is more: Proverbs 23:17-18: "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD." (NIV)

There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. To top it off, we have the wonderful promise in Hebrews 13:5: "Don't fall in love with money. Be satisfied with what you have. The Lord has promised that he will not leave us or desert us." The Creator of the Universe has promised to never leave us nor forsake us, as long we are content with what He has blessed us with. Being content has its rewards and we would do ourselves a favor if we remained content at all times! May He grant us the joy to live a healthy and content life!

In His service, your fellow servant,
Pastor Paul Santos