

## L. BITTER RESENTMENT vs. FAITHFUL CONTENTMENT: 1 Samuel 18:17-30

**INTRODUCTION/CON(TEXT)/DOCTRINE.** Beloved brothers and sisters, friends and visitors, hear this truth: *Bitter resentment will lead to man's destruction, but faithful contentment will lead to God's glory.*

In **1 Samuel 18:1-16**, David has just recently slain Goliath, and the people rightly praise him for it. This leads to king Saul envying David, and even trying to kill him through pinning him to the wall with a spear, not once but twice, during one of Saul's mad fits. Despite all of Saul's evil actions toward David fueled by envy, God says, "**But all Israel and Judah loved David**" (1 Sam. 18:16).

Now in **1 Samuel 18:17-30**, Saul's envy is still enflamed and he continues into bitter resentment. But, at the same time, David, even in the midst of mistreatment and trials, shows forth faithful contentment.

Saul is bitterly resentful toward David and it simply furthers Saul down the path of destruction. At the same time, however, David is faithfully content in the LORD which furthers him down the path to best glorifying God.

So I think the doctrine which naturally arises from **1 Samuel 18:17-30** is this:

**DOCTRINE.** Bitter resentment will lead to man's destruction, but faithful contentment will lead to God's glory.

### OUTLINE.

#### I. Saul's Bitter Resentment.

*Resentment = ill-will toward someone for thinking they have wronged you in some way.*

#### II. David's Faithful Contentment.

*with personal applications scattered along the way.*

### I. SAUL'S BITTER RESENTMENT (1 Sam. 18:17-30).

Six particulars to which I want to draw your attention, concerning Saul's Bitter Resentment:

#### I) Saul Treated David Hypocritically (1 Sam. 18:17).

##### **1 Samuel 18:17**

"Then Saul said to David, 'Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the Lord's battles.' For Saul thought,

'Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him.'"

- **RICHARD BAXTER (1615-1691):** "Beware of that secret grudge which lies festering in the bosom; it is a poison to your own soul, and a provocation to God, who sees the heart and judges accordingly." — **Baxter, Richard. The Practical Works of Richard Baxter, Volume 3: Christian Directory. Hendrickson Publishers, 2008.**
- **RICHARD SIBBES (1577-1635):** "Envy and bitterness are the devil's cords, whereby he binds the soul to misery; break them with the hammer of grace, and be free." — **Sibbes, Richard. The Bruised Reed. Banner of Truth Trust, 1998.**

## USE FOR INSTRUCTION

**QUESTION.** What is bitterness?

**ANSWER.** Bitterness is rot in the soul which springs from anger. That anger could spring from envy, from someone wronging you, or from simply thinking someone wronged you, even though they may not have.

**Hebrews 12:15** "See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled. . ."

**Bitterness is poison in your soul that leads to harboring angry feeling or thoughts toward others.**

Bitterness easily causes destructive plans to form in your mind, venomous words to spew from your mouth, or even harmful actions to be worked by your hands.

- **EDWARD REYNOLDS (1599-1676):**  
"A bitter spirit is a barren spirit; it yields no fruit to God, but only thorns and briars to pierce itself (Heb. 6:8)." — **Reynolds, Edward. The Works of Edward Reynolds, Volume 4. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1996.**

## USE FOR EXAMINATION

**Q.** Are you bitter toward anyone?

- **THOMAS BOSTON:** "A spirit of bitterness, fieriness, and selfishness, whatever men profess, is a black mark, it is so very unlike Christ's way."

## USE FOR EXHORTATION

**FIRST,**

*Think of how angry God should be toward you in your sin, and how merciful He is to you in Christ!*

**THEN,**

*Confess and crucify your bitterness, beloved, asking God to free you from its entangling grip!*

**Ephesians 4:13** "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice."

## **II) Saul Seemingly Tried to Provoke David to Sin (1 Sam. 18:18-19).**

### **1 Samuel 18:18-19**

"18 And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" 19 But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife."

- **MATTHEW HENRY:** "[Saul] did what he could to provoke [David] to discontent and mutiny, by breaking his promise with him, and giving his daughter to another when the time came that she should have been given to him (v.19). This was as great an affront as he could possibly put upon him, and touched him both in his honour and in his love. He therefore thought David's resentment of it would break out in some indecency or other, in word or deed, which might give him an advantage against him to take him off by the course of law. Thus evil men seek mischief." — **Henry, Matthew. Unabridged Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible (best navigation). OSNOVA. Kindle Edition.**
- **BOYS AND GIRLS,** imagine if the person you were promised to marry was all of the sudden, right before your wedding, given by their father to marry someone else.
  - **MATTHEW POOLE (1624-1679):** "This was an act of great injustice. . . and accordingly this marriage was accursed by God, and the children begotten in it were by God's appointment cut off (2 Sam. 21)." — **Poole, Matthew. English Annotations on the Holy Bible. E4 Group. Kindle Edition.**

## **III) Saul Tried to Ensnare David (1 Sam. 18:20-21).**

**1 Samuel 18:20-21** "20 Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall now be my son-in-law."

- **(i)** Maybe Saul thought Michal would conspire with him against David, or, **(ii)** Maybe Saul thought Michal's bride price of 100 Philistine foreskins would be the thing to ensnare him and lead to his death.

## **IV) Saul Tried to Manipulate David Through Flattery (1 Sam. 18:22).**

**1 Samuel 18:22** "And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law.'"

**QUESTION. What is flattery?**

**ANSWER.** Flattery is *insincere* or *excessive praise*, often given with ulterior motives, such as gaining favor or manipulating others.

**Example:** "Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you" (1 Sam. 18:22).

*USES FOR INSTRUCTION / DOCTRINE*

**(i) Flattery is wickedness** (Ps. 5:9; Pro. 29:5).

- **Psalms 5:9** "For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue."
  - **Proverbs 26:28** "A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin."
  - **Proverbs 29:5** "A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet."

**(ii) Some people flatter themselves to soothe their conscience and avoid dealing with their sin** (Ps. 36:2).

- **Psalms 36:2** "For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated."

**(iii) The LORD will judge flatterers** (Ps. 12:3).

- **Psalms 12:3** "May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that makes great boasts. . ."

*USE FOR EXHORTATION*

**(iv) Resolve, like Elihu, not to show partiality or to use flattery toward any person** (Job 32:31).

- **Job 32:21** (*Elihu, rebuking Job's friends*)  
"I will not show partiality to any man or use flattery toward any person."

**V) Saul Tried to Set David Up to Fall By the Hand of the Philistines** (1 Sam. 18:23-25).

**1 Samuel 18:23-25** "23 And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?" 24 And the servants of Saul told him, "Thus and so did David speak." 25 Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the

Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.'" Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines."

## **VI) Saul Was David's Enemy Continually, in Spite of David's Faithful Service and His Being Highly Esteemed (1 Sam. 18:26-30).**

**1 Samuel 18:26-30** "26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. Before the time had expired, 27 David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. 28 But when Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him, 29 Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.

30 Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed."

### **LEARN,**

In God's providence, no matter what you do for others or for the Lord, some men or women will set themselves up to be your enemy continually.

**BOYS AND GIRLS,** Saul was David's enemy continually, even though David did him no wrong, and in fact did him a lot of good.

Christ had a Judas, David had a Saul; you should not be surprised when you have enemies despite your love to them and faithfulness to the Lord.

## ***See the Rotten Fruit of Bitter Resentment!***

## **II. DAVID'S FAITHFUL CONTENTMENT (1 Sam. 18:17-30).**

Nine particulars to which I want to draw your attention considering David's Faithful Contentment:

### **I) David Behaved Himself Humbly (1 Sam. 18:17-18).**

#### **1 Samuel 18:17-18**

17 Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the Lord's battles." For Saul thought, "Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." 18 And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?"

- **Luke 17:10** "We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our

duty."

- **Psalm 37:11** "But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace."
- **Matthew 5:5** "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

## **II) David Was Unaffected By Saul's Provocation (1 Sam. 18:19).**

### **1 Samuel 18:19**

"But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife."

***This is a fantastic example of Christian contentment!***

**QUESTION.** What is Christian contentment?

**ANSWER.** Christian contentment is a state of spiritual peace and satisfaction in God's providence, regardless of what is going on in your life.

*Contentment is not passivity or indifference or mere Stoicism but an active, God-enabled trust in the Lord's sovereign will, rooted in the belief that He works all things for the good of His people (Rom. 8:28).*

- **THOMAS WATSON (1620-1686):**

"Contentment is a rare jewel that shines brightest in the furnace of affliction; it is the soul's quiet resting in God's will, whatever the storm."

— **Watson, Thomas. The Art of Divine Contentment. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2001.**

- **RICHARD BAXTER (1615-1691):** "True contentment lies not in having much, but in needing little; it is to prize God above all treasures, and to find Him sufficient in every state." — **Baxter, Richard. The Practical Works of Richard Baxter, Volume 1: Christian Directory. Hendrickson Publishers, 2008.**

- **Jonathan Edwards knew this kind of Contentment.** He was unaffected by being fired over the Lord's Supper.

## **III) David Wisely Did Not Fall By the Flattering Kisses of His Enemy (1 Sam. 18:20-25).**

### **1 Samuel 18:20-25**

"20 Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall now be my son-in-law." 22 And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law.'" 23 And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. (**NOW NOTICE HOW HE IS UNAFFECTED BY THIS FLATTERY:**) And David said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man

and have no reputation?" 24 And the servants of Saul told him, "Thus and so did David speak." 25 Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.'" Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines."

- **BOYS AND GIRLS**, watch out for those who flatter you!
- **Proverbs 27:6**  
"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."

#### **IV) David Did Valiantly in Slaying the Philistines, and Won for Himself a Bride (1 Sam. 18:26-27).**

**1 Samuel 18:26-27** "26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. Before the time had expired, 27 David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife."

### **G O S P E L**

*Christ also won for Himself a bride through His valiant effort!*

#### **V) David was Accepted and Empowered by The LORD—this is the fuel by which Christian contentment burns (1 Sam. 18:28a).**

**1 Samuel 18:28a** "But when Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David,"

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**BOYS AND GIRLS**, the only way you and I can be accepted by and empowered by the Lord, is to have Jesus Christ as our Savior and King through faith.

#### **VI) David Was Lovable (1 Sam. 18:28b).**

**1 Samuel 18:28b** "and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him,"

- See how loved is a contented Man of Valor.

#### **VII) David Was Hated by the Hypocrite (1 Sam. 18:29).**

**1 Samuel 18:29** "Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually."

- Hypocrites hate the faithful because they show them, by comparison, what they really are.

#### **VIII) David Was Successful in the eyes of the LORD (1 Sam. 18:30a).**

**1 Samuel 18:30a** "Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul,"

- David was not successful in the eyes of Saul, but he was in the eyes of the Lord. That should be what you strive for!

**IX) David Was Esteemed by the Godly** (1 Sam. 18:30b).

**1 Samuel 18:30b** "so that his name was highly esteemed."

- Christians, God's enemies will hate you, but the saints will love you.

***See the Happy Fruit of Faithful Contentment!***

May God give us faithful contentment like David, and ultimately like Christ!

## **CONCLUSION.**

Look at the protection of The LORD over the life of David.

## **PURITANS QUOTES ON RESENTMENT AND BITTERNESS**

- **THOMAS WATSON (c. 1620-1686):** "Anger and malice are the brats of a corrupt nature; they are as thorns in the flesh, which prick and gall the soul. A Christian must labor to pull up these weeds by the roots, lest they choke the seed of grace." — Watson, Thomas. A Body of Divinity. Banner of Truth Trust, 1958.
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- **JOHN OWEN (1616-1683):** "The heart that retains bitterness against a brother is a heart unprepared for the mercy of God; for as we forgive, so are we forgiven (Matt. 6:14-15)." — Owen, John. The Works of John Owen, Volume 9: Sermons to the Church. Banner of Truth Trust, 1965.
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- **RICHARD BAXTER (1615-1691):** "Beware of that secret grudge which lies festering in the bosom; it is a poison to your own soul, and a provocation to God, who sees the heart and judges accordingly." — Baxter, Richard. The Practical Works of Richard Baxter, Volume 3: Christian Directory. Hendrickson Publishers, 2008.
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- **JEREMIAH BURROUGHS (c. 1600-1646):** "A bitter spirit against God's providence is a sign of an unsubdued will; it quarrels with the Almighty, and so loses the sweetness of His favor." — Burroughs, Jeremiah. The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment. Sovereign Grace Publishers, 2001.
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- **MATTHEW HENRY (1662-1714):** "Bitterness of heart against our neighbor is a breach of the royal law of love; it turns the soul into a wilderness, where no good fruit can grow (James 2:8)." — Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.
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- **THOMAS MANTON (1620-1677):** "Resentment is a canker that eats into the soul; it is the fruit of pride and unbelief, refusing to trust God's justice to right all wrongs." — Manton, Thomas. *The Complete Works of Thomas Manton, Volume 5*. Solid Ground Christian Books, 2008.
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- **WILLIAM GURNALL (1616-1679):** "A heart full of bitterness is a house divided against itself; it cannot stand in the day of trial, for it has already surrendered to the enemy within." — Gurnall, William. *The Christian in Complete Armour*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1964.
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- **JOHN FLAVEL (c. 1627-1691):** "To harbor resentment is to carry a burden God never intended; it wearies the soul and blinds it to the light of His reconciling grace." — Flavel, John. *The Works of John Flavel, Volume 4: The Fountain of Life*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1968.
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- **SAMUEL RUTHERFORD (c. 1600-1661):** "A bitter heart against man or God is a heart unripe for glory; it must be sweetened by the cross, or it will not taste the joys of heaven." — Rutherford, Samuel. *Letters of Samuel Rutherford*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1984.
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- **RICHARD SIBBES (1577-1635):** "Envy and bitterness are the devil's cords, whereby he binds the soul to misery; break them with the hammer of grace, and be free." — Sibbes, Richard. *The Bruised Reed*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1998.
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- **WILLIAM PERKINS (1558-1602):** "Anger that turns to bitterness is a fire kindled in the breast, which, if not quenched by repentance, will burn to the destruction of the soul." — Perkins, William. *The Works of William Perkins, Volume 1*. Reformation Heritage Books, 2014.
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- **THOMAS GOODWIN (1600-1680):** "A soul that nurses resentment against another is like a vessel leaking grace; it cannot hold the peace of God while it clings to the poison of wrath." — Goodwin, Thomas. *The Works of Thomas Goodwin, Volume 2*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1985.
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- **STEPHEN CHARNOCK (1628-1680):** "Bitterness springs from a heart that forgets God's sovereignty; it murmurs against His hand, and so drinks its own gall." — Charnock, Stephen. *The Complete Works of Stephen Charnock, Volume 1: Discourses on the Existence and Attributes of God*. Banner of Truth Trust, 2010.
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- **JOHN BUNYAN (1628-1688):** "He that keeps resentment in his heart is like a man who locks himself in a dungeon; the key is forgiveness, but he will not use it." — Bunyan, John. *The Acceptable Sacrifice*. Puritan Paperbacks, Banner of Truth Trust, 2004.
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- **EDWARD REYNOLDS (1599-1676):** "A bitter spirit is a barren spirit; it yields no fruit to God, but only thorns and briars to pierce itself (Heb. 6:8)." — Reynolds, Edward. *The Works of Edward Reynolds, Volume 4*. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1996.
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- **MATTHEW POOLE (1624-1679):** "The heart that retains malice is a stranger to the covenant of grace; for God commands us to put away all bitterness and wrath, and to be kind one to another (Eph. 4:31-32)." — Poole, Matthew. *English Annotations on the Holy Bible*. E4 Group. Kindle Edition.
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- **THOMAS BROOKS (1608-1680):** "Resentment is a moth that eats into the garment of the soul; it leaves holes where love and peace should dwell." — Brooks, Thomas. *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1968.
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- **GEORGE SWINNOCK (1627-1673):** "A bitter tongue flows from a bitter heart; both must be cleansed by the blood of Christ, or they will sour all that is good." — Swinnock, George. *The Works of George Swinnock, Volume 1*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1992.
- **WILLIAM BRIDGE (1600-1670):** "To bear a grudge is to carry a load the Lord bids us cast upon Him; it wearies the soul and profits nothing." — Bridge, William. *A Lifting Up for the Downcast*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1961.
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- **JOHN PRESTON (1587-1628):** "Bitterness against our brethren is a sign we have not yet learned the lesson of the cross, where Christ forgave even His enemies." — Preston, John. *The Breastplate of Faith and Love*. Sovereign Grace Publishers, 2002.
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- **OBADIAH SEDGWICK (c. 1600-1658):** "A heart full of resentment is a garden overgrown with weeds; it must be tilled by grace, or it will yield no harvest of joy." — Sedgwick, Obadiah. *The Anatomy of Secret Sins*. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1995.
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- **JOSEPH CARYL (1602-1673):** "Bitterness is a root that spreads its poison far; it defiles not only the man who holds it, but all who come near (Heb. 12:15)." — Caryl, Joseph. *An Exposition of Job, Volume 1*. Dust & Ashes Publications, 2001.
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- **DAVID CLARKSON (1622-1686):** "Resentment locks the soul in chains; only the key of love, turned by the hand of faith, can set it free." — Clarkson, David. *The Works of David Clarkson, Volume 2*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1988.
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- **JOHN LIGHTFOOT (1602-1675):** "A bitter spirit against God's dealings is a rebellion of the heart; it refuses to kiss the rod, and so misses the blessing." — Lightfoot, John. *The Works of John Lightfoot, Volume 1*. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1997.
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- **ANTHONY BURGESS (d. 1664):** "To retain bitterness is to drink a cup of gall daily; it sickens the soul and estranges it from God's mercy." — Burgess, Anthony. *Spiritual Refining*. Reformation Heritage Books, 1998.

## **PURITANS QUOTES ON CONTENTMENT AND GODLINESS**

- **THOMAS WATSON (c. 1620-1686):** "Contentment is a rare jewel that shines brightest in the furnace of affliction; it is the soul's quiet resting in God's will, whatever the storm." — **Watson, Thomas. *The Art of Divine Contentment*. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 2001.**
- **JOHN OWEN (1616-1683):** "Godliness is the soul's conformity to God's image; it is the life of Christ breathed into us, whereby we live not to ourselves, but to Him who died for us." — Owen, John. *The Works of John Owen, Volume 3: The Holy Spirit*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1965.
- **RICHARD BAXTER (1615-1691):** "True contentment lies not in having much, but in needing little; it is to prize God above all treasures, and to find Him sufficient in every state." — Baxter, Richard. *The Practical Works of Richard Baxter, Volume 1: Christian Directory*. Hendrickson Publishers, 2008.

- **JEREMIAH BURROUGHS (c. 1600-1646):** "A contented heart is a kingdom within; it submits to God's scepter, and finds riches in His promises that the world cannot take away." — Burroughs, Jeremiah. *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment*. Sovereign Grace Publishers, 2001.
- **MATTHEW HENRY (1662-1714):** "Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Tim. 6:6); it turns a cottage into a palace, and makes every bitter cup taste of divine love." — Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.
- **THOMAS MANTON (1620-1677):** "Contentment is the soul's harmony with God's tune; it sings His praise in want or plenty, knowing all comes from His hand." — Manton, Thomas. *The Complete Works of Thomas Manton, Volume 2*. Solid Ground Christian Books, 2008.
- **WILLIAM GURNALL (1616-1679):** "Godliness is the Christian's armor, and contentment his shield; with these, he stands unmoved amidst the darts of discontent and pride." — Gurnall, William. *The Christian in Complete Armour*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1964.
- **JOHN FLAVEL (c. 1627-1691):** "Contentment is the sweet fruit of faith; it grows only in the garden of a godly heart, watered by trust in God's unerring wisdom." — Flavel, John. *The Works of John Flavel, Volume 4: The Fountain of Life*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1968.
- **SAMUEL RUTHERFORD (c. 1600-1661):** "Godliness is the soul's heaven on earth; it finds contentment in Christ alone, and counts all else as dung for His sake." — Rutherford, Samuel. *Letters of Samuel Rutherford*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1984.
- **RICHARD SIBBES (1577-1635):** "A godly man is content with God's portion, be it a crumb or a crown; for he knows His love seasons every dish." — Sibbes, Richard. *The Bruised Reed*. Banner of Truth Trust, 1998.
- **WILLIAM PERKINS (1558-1602):** "True godliness is to live as in God's presence, and contentment is to rest in His provision, whether it be much or little." — Perkins, William. *The Works of William Perkins, Volume 1*. Reformation Heritage Books, 2014.
- **THOMAS GOODWIN (1600-1680):** "Contentment flows from a godly heart that sees God's hand in all things; it is the eye of faith beholding

mercy in every trial." — Goodwin, Thomas. The Works of Thomas Goodwin, Volume 8. Banner of Truth Trust, 1985.

- **STEPHEN CHARNOCK (1628-1680):** "Godliness is the soul's adoration of God's excellency, and contentment its submission to His will; together they make a man complete." — Charnock, Stephen. The Complete Works of Stephen Charnock, Volume 2: Discourses on the Existence and Attributes of God. Banner of Truth Trust, 2010.
- **JOHN BUNYAN (1628-1688):** "Contentment is the pilgrim's staff; it bears him up through the Slough of Despond, while godliness lights his path to the Celestial City." — Bunyan, John. The Pilgrim's Progress. Penguin Classics, 2008.
- **EDWARD REYNOLDS (1599-1676):** "Godliness is the root, and contentment the flower; where the one is planted deep in grace, the other blooms in peace." — Reynolds, Edward. The Works of Edward Reynolds, Volume 1. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1996.
- **MATTHEW POOLE (1624-1679):** "Godliness is the soul's health, and contentment its strength; they enable a man to live above the world's frowns and smiles." — Poole, Matthew. English Annotations on the Holy Bible. E4 Group. Kindle Edition.
- **THOMAS BROOKS (1608-1680):** "A godly man finds contentment in God's promises; he feasts on the hidden manna, and hungers not for the husks of earth." — Brooks, Thomas. The Works of Thomas Brooks, Volume 1: Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices. Banner of Truth Trust, 1980.
- **GEORGE SWINNOCK (1627-1673):** "Contentment is the godly man's crown; it sits upon his head when all else fails, because God reigns in his heart." — Swinnock, George. The Works of George Swinnock, Volume 2. Banner of Truth Trust, 1992.
- **WILLIAM BRIDGE (1600-1670):** "A godly heart is a contented heart; it murmurs not at God's dealings, but says, 'It is the Lord, let Him do what seems good.'" — Bridge, William. A Lifting Up for the Downcast. Banner of Truth Trust, 1961.
- **JOHN PRESTON (1587-1628):** "Godliness is the soul's treasure, and contentment its guard; together they keep a man rich in grace, though

poor in goods." — Preston, John. The Breastplate of Faith and Love. Sovereign Grace Publishers, 2002.

- **OBADIAH SEDGWICK (c. 1600-1658):** "Contentment is the fruit of godliness; it grows where the soul is rooted in Christ, and withers where self reigns." — Sedgwick, Obadiah. The Anatomy of Secret Sins. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1995.
- **JOSEPH CARYL (1602-1673):** "Godliness is the Christian's calling, and contentment his comfort; they walk hand in hand through the wilderness of this world." — Caryl, Joseph. An Exposition of Job, Volume 2. Dust & Ashes Publications, 2001.
- **DAVID CLARKSON (1622-1686):** "A godly life breeds contentment; it sees God's love in every cross, and so turns thorns into roses by faith." — Clarkson, David. The Works of David Clarkson, Volume 1. Banner of Truth Trust, 1988.
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