Christ Family Church

BECOMING

Instructions to the Church
from the Pastoral Epistles



THE CHURCH'S CRAVING

1 Timothy 6:1–10 (ESV)

Pastor Jose Prado

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[1] Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. [2] Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things. [3] If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, [4] he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, [5] and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. [6] But godliness with contentment is great gain, [7] for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. [8] But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.[9] But 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. [10] For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Propositional Statement:
Because Christ alone is sufficient for our identity, satisfaction, and security, we must turn from the unhealthy cravings of this world and find our greatest delight in His power, His person, and His providence.

Driving Question:
How does the Gospel transform the unhealthy cravings of our hearts?

Paul exposes three unhealthy cravings that must give way to our greater craving for Christ:

1. The Craving for Social Status **(POWER)**
2. The Craving for Self-Gratification **(PERSON)**
3. The Craving for Financial Wealth **(PROVIDENCE)**

1. THE CRAVING FOR SOCIAL STATUS

Paul begins with these words:

"Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled." (v. 1)

He is calling us to **live as people whose identity is no longer determined by our standing in the world but by our standing in Christ.** Notice what Paul says in verse 2:

"Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better..."

We do not need to make a name for ourselves when we have been given the name of Christ.

2. THE CRAVING FOR SELF-GRATIFICATION

Listen to Paul's words in verses 3–4:
"If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing."

They were using religion to satisfy their own selfish desires. Look at what Paul says in verse 4:

"He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words..."

They were using godliness to obtain something else.

"imagining that godliness is a means of gain." V.5

The answer to a heart consumed with self is not simply to think less about itself. It is to become increasingly captivated by Jesus.

3. THE CRAVING FOR FINANCIAL WEALTH

Paul writes in verses 7–8:

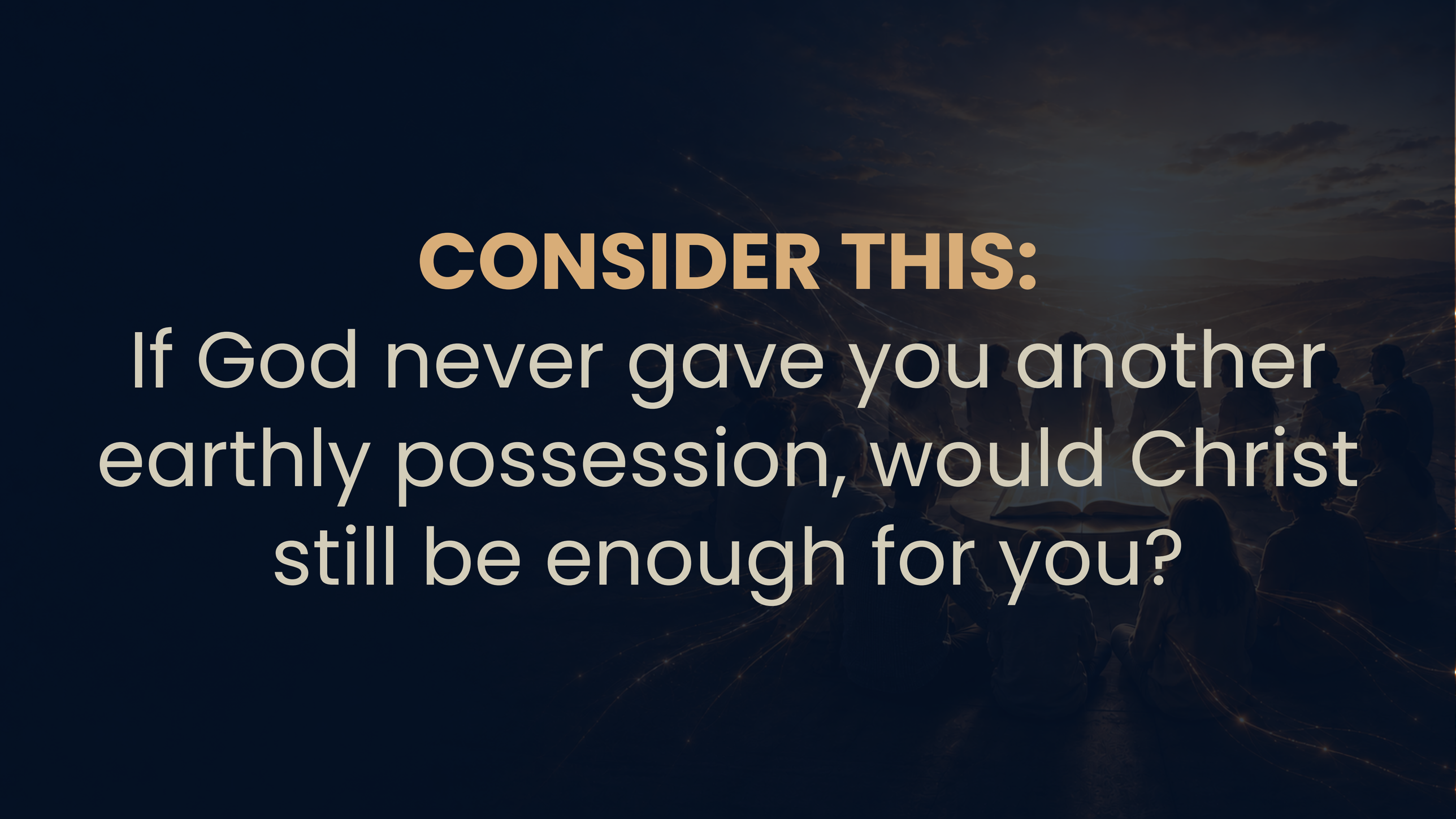
"For we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content."

Paul is warning us about something dangerous. **The love of money and the belief that our lives will finally be satisfying if we can just acquire enough of it.**

Look at verse 9:
"But 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."

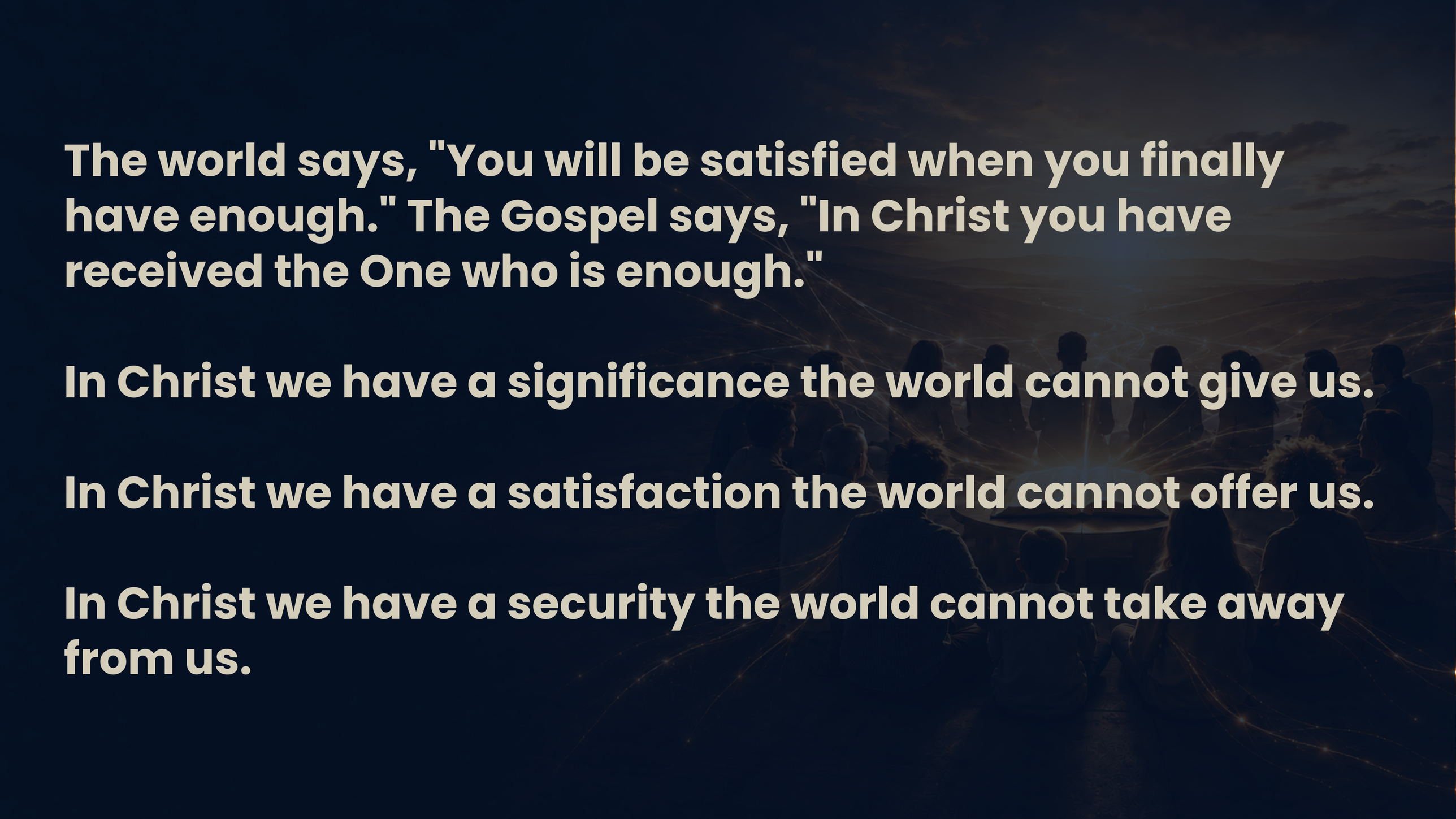
If your contentment is always waiting on what you do not yet possess, you will never be content with what you already have.

Look at verse 10:
"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."



CONSIDER THIS:

If God never gave you another earthly possession, would Christ still be enough for you?



The world says, "You will be satisfied when you finally have enough." The Gospel says, "In Christ you have received the One who is enough."

In Christ we have a significance the world cannot give us.

In Christ we have a satisfaction the world cannot offer us.

In Christ we have a security the world cannot take away from us.

We do not overcome unhealthy cravings simply by denying ourselves the things we desire. We overcome them as our hearts become increasingly satisfied in Christ. So let this be the prayer of our church:

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you."