



Outward Group Discussion Guide

September 6, 2026

SUMMARY

Drawing from 1 Timothy 6, Pastor Ryan examines why human beings are so prone to discontentment and what genuine, lasting contentment actually looks like. Using the fable of the fisherman's wife as a launching point, the sermon argues that contentment is not found in accumulating possessions or achieving financial security, but in godliness itself -- specifically, in recognizing God as the ultimate end of all pursuit rather than a means to other ends. Paul's teaching is unpacked in two directions: money as a trap for those who lack it, driving an endless and destructive cycle of craving, and money as a trap for those who possess it, fostering arrogance and misplaced hope. The sermon concludes that a gospel-shaped view of money transforms it from a source of anxiety or pride into a tool for generosity, and that true life -- the great gain Paul describes -- is found only in Christ's sufficiency, grounded in the eternal hope secured at the cross.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The sermon describes godliness and contentment as authenticating each other, meaning true godliness cannot exist without contentment and true contentment cannot exist apart from godliness -- in what ways have you pursued godliness as a means to gain something else rather than as an end in itself?
2. Jeremiah Burroughs defines Christian contentment as a gracious frame of spirit that freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition -- what would it look like practically in your daily life to delight in what God has given you rather than straining toward what He has not?
3. The sermon suggests that spiritual maturity is marked by a growing distance between how you could live and how you choose to live -- where in your life do you sense God calling you to voluntarily choose less in order to grow in contentment?
4. Burroughs says contentment is found not by adding to what we have but by subtracting from what we desire -- what specific desires in your life,

if subtracted, might produce greater peace and freedom?

5. The sermon warns that luxuries have a way of becoming necessities over time, which then jeopardizes our ability to be content -- can you identify something in your life that has made that transition, and how has it affected your sense of contentment?
6. Paul warns in 1 Timothy 6 that the love of money can cause people to wander from the faith and pierce themselves with many pains -- in what subtle ways might the love of money or possessions be quietly pulling your heart away from trust in God?
7. The sermon points out that sins like greed and arrogance tied to wealth are rarely confessed in community settings, even though they are explicitly warned against in Scripture -- why do you think these particular sins are so difficult to name and confess, and what might change if we did?
8. Jonathan Edwards is quoted as saying that Christ makes us content because our bad things will turn out for good, our truly good things can never be taken away, and the best things are yet to come --

which of these three truths do you find hardest to believe in your current season of life, and why?

9. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16 presents a striking reversal of what the world considers gain and loss -- how does the eternal perspective Jesus offers in that parable challenge the way you are currently measuring success or blessing in your own life?

10. The closing prayer from The Valley of Vision asks God to make Christ more dear to us than sin formerly was, so that His sweetness and power would occupy the place where sin once ruled -- what would it mean for you personally to invite Christ to inhabit the specific places in your heart where discontentment tends to take hold?