

October 27th – Contentment

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing with these we shall be content.” (1 Timothy 6:6)

Our culture has conditioned us to make as much money as we possibly can. Through money, we can buy big houses, drive nice cars, and take fancy vacations. We’re all familiar with the “American dream.” It tells us to work hard, advance in our careers, and make lots of money. The “dream” is to have a comfortable life with a nice family and lots of cool toys. Pursuing the dream has presented quite a challenge to many people who are now overworked and in serious debt just to manage their expenses.

Should Christians aspire to be rich? There’s nothing inherently evil about having a lot of money or possessions. Some of the most godly men in the Bible were also very wealthy – Abraham, Job, etc. So while there’s nothing evil about being prosperous, seeking wealth should not be our primary pursuit. Rather, God has called us to be content with the things He has blessed us with – food, clothing, shelter, transportation, education, employment, etc. Too often, we take these wonderful blessings for granted.

Paul reminds us that we brought nothing into the world with us when we were born, and it’s certain that we won’t carry anything out when we die. The old saying is true – “You don’t see any U-hauls attached to hearses.” Everything we accumulate will be left to someone else when we pass away. There’s nothing wrong with leaving an inheritance to our loved ones. In fact, the Bible encourages us to do so. But the greatest legacy we can leave is spiritual – a life of Christ-honoring contentment that points others to Jesus.