

## **Covetous or Content? (Hebrews 13:5-6)**

**March 26, 2023, Pastor Scott Simon**

### **1. Covetousness is a grave sin (like fornication) that hinders or stops those in the race of faith.**

- a. "Covetous" is a broad term used to describe a multitude of moral transgressions.
- b. It deals with thoughts and desires rather than focusing exclusively on external actions.
- c. Coveting describes a sinful craving or passion for something that would be sinful to pursue.
- d. Coveting often leads to dishonest pursuits of wealth, power, or privilege.
- e. It represents an insatiable desire to acquire more of something (money, lovers, possessions).

### **2. Freedom from covetousness.**

- a. Believers are challenged to take every thought captive in obedience to Christ (2 Cor. 10:3-6).
- b. Trusting God's provision for every need frees us from covetousness (Proverbs 3:5-6; Phil. 4:19).
- c. Jesus warns His followers against covetous thoughts and actions (Luke 12:13-21).
- d. Covetousness can never be satisfied by the things we acquire (Ecclesiastes 5:10).
- e. Covetousness is a form of idolatry, and it must be put to death in our hearts (Colossians 3:5-6).
- f. Scripture is the remedy to overcoming covetous thinking (Psalm 119:36).

### **3. Be content always.**

- a. Contentment is not a passive acceptance of circumstances, but rather a choice to trust God to supply every need.
- b. Contentment frees us from all manner of covetousness.
- c. Coveting earthly things or pleasures takes our focus off God.
- d. Seeking God first allows Him to add all His blessings to us, whatever they may be (Matt. 6:33).
  - i. God pours out His blessing on faithful stewards of their finances (Malachi 3:10).
  - ii. God pours out a multitude of benefits to those who trust in Him (Psalm 68:19).
- e. Godliness with contentment is great spiritual gain (1 Timothy 6:6-8).
- f. In Christ, we can even be joyful when sinners plunder our possessions (Hebrews 10:34).
- g. The awesome fivefold negative assurance (Heb. 13:5), "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
  - i. "I will not."
  - ii. "Not leave you."
  - iii. "I will never."
  - iv. "No never."
  - v. "Forsake you"
- h. If the Lord God is for us, who could ever come against us? Why would we have any fear?
  - i. What can man, or any spiritual force of darkness, do to believers?
  - ii. We are to place all our trust in God who is on our side (Psalm 118:5-9).
  - iii. No forces of evil or darkness can ever separate us from His great love (Rom. 8:31-39).
- i. The perfect picture of contentment for believers to follow (Philippians 4:11-13).

**Life Group Questions:**

1. Are there areas where you struggle with coveting (intensely desiring) something you don't have?
2. Do you recognize coveting in yourself when it happens? If not, when or how do you realize that you were coveting at a later date?
3. Do you ever suffer from "buyer's remorse"? Was the holy Spirit speaking to you before you made such a purchase?
4. What practical steps could you take to deal with any covetous thoughts you have?
5. How can God's promises to be our helper benefit you in difficult times?
6. What kind of situations might the phrase "what can man do to me," be helpful in your walk of faith?