



Sermon, Sunday September 25, 2022

“Godliness with Contentment Is Great Gain”

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-10 ⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by 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 evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

Introduction: True Godliness and False Godliness

Today's text is 1 Timothy. The Apostle Paul returned to Macedonia during his fourth missionary journey and had Timothy take care of the church in Ephesus. Paul wrote 1 Timothy with the purpose of encouraging Timothy to minister with power in the Ephesian church, rejecting false doctrines in the church, and overseeing the affairs of the growing Ephesian church.

Today's text tells us what the benefits of godliness with contentment are for us. **Today's text Timothy 6:6 says, “Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment.”** This verse begins with ‘of course’ because the preceding verse describes people who use godliness to their own gain.

1 Timothy 6:5 says, “And constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.” At that time, in the Ephesian church that Timothy was serving, there were false teachers (legalists, Gnostics, and those influenced by Greek philosophy) who claimed to be godly. They were captivated by the materialistic ideas of Ephesus, where commerce was developed, and they used piety as a means of self-interest in the church.

However, the godliness that the Bible speaks of is conforming to God's holy disposition. Also, in the New Testament, it refers to becoming like Jesus Christ. Furthermore, **the book of James says; “True godliness that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27).** However, false teachers lead the church community in the opposite direction.

Then, what is the ‘contentment’ in verse 6 of today’s text? According to Greek philosophy, contentment begins with self. But biblical contentment begins with Christ. That is, a human being's contentment is given to human beings because of and through Christ.

The Apostle Paul confesses this satisfaction through **Philippians 4:11-12. “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”**

The Apostle Paul confesses that the contentment he experiences does not change according to any internal or external circumstances but comes from a heart filled with the grace of Christ.

So, what are the benefits of godliness with contentment?



Body: Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain

First, we get to know the purpose of life given to us. Today's text 1 Timothy 6:7 says, "For we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it." This verse is the biblical description of man's birth and death. Similar passages in the Bible also appear in the Book of Job and the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Job 1:21 says; "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

Also, Ecclesiastes 5:15 says; "Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand."

These verses show the futility of human life to the unbeliever, but to those who believe in the Lord, these verses clearly show that man is created by the Lord and returns to the Lord. In human life, a life without a purpose is futile, but a life with a clear purpose experiences the preciousness of life.

The purpose of my life as a pastor is to do my best to minister to the saints entrusted to me by the Lord, to be a respectable husband to my wife, to be a loving father to my children, and to be a helpful person to my neighbors. So, even if my death happens tomorrow, my life is meaningful and precious.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Do not forget the clear purpose of life that the Lord has given to each of us.

What is the second benefit of godliness with contentment?

Second, it enables us to enjoy true joy in the present life. Today's text verse 8 says, "But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these." There are many reasons why we are not satisfied with our lives. However, the fundamental reason we are not satisfied with our present life is that human nature itself is greedy. Also, we always compare ourselves to others and think about our status.

So, what is the meaning of the phrase, "If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these?" Someone may ask about this verse, 'How can a man live contentedly with only food and clothing?' This verse tells us that we should be able to be thankful for the basic needs of life being met. In other words, to enjoy happiness in life, we must be filled with gratitude. If we have godliness with contentment, our hearts will be filled with gratitude.

Last September 18th was my son Woojin's 13th birthday. He has become a real teenager. These days I have joy. These are the small conversations we have while driving Woojin to school and bringing him home. I know these little conversations will disappear when Woojin grows up a bit and can drive on his own. So, for me, the time to have a small conversation with my son is very precious and I am grateful. May you and I all experience more joy in the present life. What, then, is the third benefit of godliness with contentment?

Third, it prevents us from being greedy in vain and warns us about covetousness. Today's text 1 Timothy 6:9-10 says, "But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (v.9) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. (v.10)"

Money is very important for the convenience of our lives. And the Bible doesn't say money itself is good or bad. However, it clearly states that we should be on guard against greed and covetousness. Therefore, there are many teachings about material things in the Bible.

Psalm 37:16 says, "Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked."

Proverbs 15:16 teaches that "Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil."



Hebrews 13:5 says, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

It is important to earn money in the right way, to do your best, and use it well. But more important than that, money can become the idol of our lives and engulf us in greed and covetousness. True godliness with contentment prevents us from being greedy and guards against covetousness. I want you and I to enjoy freedom from money and material possessions.

Conclusion: Ask the Lord for true godliness with contentment.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. True godliness with contentment has many benefits for us. First, we get to know the purpose of life given to us. So, it does not lead us to an empty, purposeless life, but makes us realize how precious life is. Second, it enables us to enjoy true joy in the present life. True godliness with contentment fills our hearts with gratitude. Finally, it prevents us from becoming greedy and warns us about covetousness. So, it frees us from money and material things.

Is there something in your heart that you haven't been able to fulfill? Do you feel content? Please meditate on today's Word deeply and gain abundant wisdom for life through the words the Lord gives us through the Apostle Paul. When we ask the Lord for contentment in life, the Lord will answer that prayer. I hope everyone enjoys such a blessing. Amen.

