

CONTENTMENT

October 9th 2016. 1 Tim 6:6-12. Ben Skeat

But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. ¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **1 Tim 6:6-12**

Main Idea: Godliness with contentment is great gain

Walking with God (devotedly, lovingly, reverently), in contentment (happy, satisfied), is itself great wealth.

“You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.” St Augustine

Godliness with contentment is great gain, and the love of money is a trap (v6-10)

- Money is just one (main one) of many ways that we seek to fulfill our need for contentment outside of relationship to God.
- Escaping the trap requires that we recognize it as a trap!
- Re-orient towards the love of God that has been given to us in Jesus.

Godliness with contentment is great gain, and is a lifetime pursuit (v11)

- Not a passive exercise, but actively seeking out the gift that God has given us in Jesus. We find contentment in Jesus alone!
- Contentedness is found in:
 - Righteousness (right relations w/ God/others/creation)
 - Godliness (love, devotion, reverence for God that causes us to try and imitate him)
 - Faith (acting on the belief that Gods promises are true)
 - Love (the experience of Gods love. Stay connected to the love that God has given us)
 - Endurance (taking hold of Jesus promise that “in this world you will have trouble” and looking for Gods outcomes in every circumstance)
 - Gentleness (experience God’s grace. Take it easy on others. Take it easy on yourself)

Godliness with contentment is great gain, and a fight worth fighting (v12)

- Pursuing relationship with God will cause you to “swim against the current” of cultural norms and other people’s expectations
- Setbacks, failures, heartache, heartbreak, heartburn, distractions, and temptations are guaranteed in your discipleship
- Our instant fulfillment culture is opposed to the deep work that God wants to do within you.
- Our lives can become very full very quickly.

The fullness of God’s love and all of heavens resources are available to those who pursue Him

tl;dr *Flee from what you know is fake, instead pursue relationship with the One who loves you and alone can satisfy*