

aired on KALS December 6, 2005

I Timothy 6:3-8

3. “If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,
4. he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,
5. and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.
6. But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.
7. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.
8. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”

During the Christmas season, many people become discontent and stressed as they focus on what they or their loved ones don't have--rather than being thankful for what we do have. Of course the media and advertising has much to do with this. But ultimately we, as Christians, are responsible before God to overcome

temptation, and so live sensibly and godly in this world.

Inner contentment, being satisfied with who we are and what we have, provides the only effective means of escaping the entanglements of the world--and especially at Christmas time.

In our passage this morning, God uses the words “content” and “contentment.” Verse 6 states: “Godliness is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.” The Greek word translated contentment here is used only one other time in the New Testament, in II Corinthians 9:8, and is rendered “sufficiency” in the New American Standard Bible. This verse reads: “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.” Note here our sufficiency for contentment comes from God. When we depend on Him we can have contentment.

The word “content” is used in this morning’s Scripture is verse 8, which states: “If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.” The Greek word translated here “content” is “arkeo.” Arkeo is used eight times in the New Testament. Three times it is translated with the English word “content” in the New American Standard Bible, two times it is translated “enough,” two times as “sufficient” and once as “satisfied.” So the concepts of “content,” “enough,” “sufficient,” and “satisfied” are all found here.

In Philippians 4:8 Paul writes, “I have learned to be

content.” And the Hebrew writer directs us to “be content with what you have” in chapter 13, verse 5.

Jesus came to set His people free. Isn't it ironic that the world uses the holiday celebrating His birth to press people into mental discontentment and the slavery of debt? Don't fall into the world's trap this year, find your contentment, all sufficiency, and satisfaction in the Lord Jesus Christ. The plastic things of this world will never do!