

— Hebrews 13.5-6 —  
Kingdom series 26  
**Wealth and Contentment**

Hebrews 13.5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For he himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

\* Why does Paul bring up the topic of wealth?

\* What are the four main areas of life where we are to be a transformed people in the likeness of God?

\* What is Paul's basic command? (vs 5)

\* What is Paul's command based on? (vs 6)

\* Where are these from, and why is that significant?

Deut 31:3 "The LORD your God Himself crosses over [the Jordan] before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them ... 6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Psalms 118.6 "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

\* Why does Paul apply these OT texts to the NT church?

Mat 28.20 "[L]o, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

1Cor 10.6 Now these things happened [to God's OT people] as examples for us [NT believers], so that we would not crave evil things as they [did]. 7 [Nor] be idolaters ... 8 Nor ... act immorally ... 9 Nor ... try the Lord ... 10 Nor grumble, as some of them did ... 11 ... [T]hese things happened to them as our example, and they were written for our instruction ...

\* What are some ways Christians have gotten contentment and avoiding covetousness wrong?

"If anyone will not work, neither let him eat" (2 Thes 3.10).

"If anyone will not provide for his own, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel" (1Tim 5.8).

\* What is Paul advocating? Is it a matter possessions or attitude and orientation?

Psalms 112:1 Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who delights greatly in His commandments. 2 His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches will be in his house, And his righteousness endures forever.

Deut 8.9 ... you will eat food without scarcity, ... you will not lack anything ... [you will] have ... good houses ..., 13 and ... your herds and your flocks [will] multiply, and your silver and gold [will] multiply, and all that you have [will] multipl[y], 14 ... [so much so that you will be tempted to] become proud and ... forget the LORD your God"

Eze 16.13 "[Y]ou were adorned with gold and silver, and your dress was of fine linen, silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, honey and oil; so you were exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty.

14 "Then your fame went forth among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of My splendor which I bestowed on you," declares the Lord GOD. 15 "But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be willing."

Deut 8.12 "[W]hen you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, 13 and ... your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, 14 ... [do not] become proud and ... forget the LORD your God ... 17 Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' 18 But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

\* What lesson did Nebuchadnezzar learn?

Dan 4.30 "Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty? ... 34 ... "I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing; But He does according to His will in host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?"

\* What does James teach us?

James 1.17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights ...

\* What was God teaching Israel in the wilderness?

Deut 8.5 "God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

Deut 10.12-13: "[W]hat does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?"

\* What is maturity?

\* So what, then, is contentment?

Phil 4.11 ... I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

\* What do covetousness, and its cousin envy, result from?

James 3.16 for where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.