

# PROSPERITY & GENEROSITY

Part 11 of THE PURPLE BOOK. 1 Timothy 6:5-10.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. March 20, 2022.

## CONTENTMENT: THE SECRET TO MONEY MANAGEMENT

**Contentment allows us to experience:**

- Freedom from the treadmill of craving more, more, more.
- A full and satisfying life.

## THE KEYS TO CONTENTMENT

**1. Commit to God, not Money - verses 5-6.**

5b ... imaging that godliness is a means of gain.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain,

Philippians 4:11-13 (ESV) I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

## **2. Learn the Limits of Money - verses 7-8.**

7 ... for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

## **3. Avoid the Dangers of Money - verses 9-10.**

9 Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into 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 evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

# CONCLUSION

Godly contentment is the key to godly money management. Contentment is the key to a healthy attitude to money and a willingness to follow the biblical teaching on money. For example, we'll choose to live within our means. We'll avoid unwise debt. We'll have savings.

Here are some reasons why that is true.

## **When we're content in God:**

- We'll manage our money as a gift, not a goal. We'll receive it with gratitude, not pursue it with greed.
- We won't make money our god. It's not the most important thing in life.
- We won't depend on money to meet all our needs.
- We won't expect money to make us happy.
- We won't buy stuff we don't need and can't afford.
- When we're content in God:
  - We'll follow God's money plan. The Bible has excellent financial advice.
  - We'll get off the relentless treadmill of more searching, more shopping, more spending and less joy, less rest, and less peace.
  - We'll be generous and willing to share with those in need (verse 18).
  - We'll be open to a simpler lifestyle with less clutter. We'll have more time and energy for things that matter most.
  - We'll use money to make eternal investments (verse 19), which is the only way to take it with us.

If you want to manage your money well, take a close look at yourself. Make sure that you're dug down deep into the true source of contentment.

# TODAY'S BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL TERM: MONEY

The Bible doesn't tell us every way that we should handle our money, but it does give us some great truths.

**Everything belongs to God**, including money. Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord;"

**We are stewards of what God has given us.** Luke 12:42-46 reminds us that all that we have, not just our money, is simply on loan from God. He has entrusted us to care for what is His for the short amount of time that we have it.

**Money reveals our hearts.** Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The way in which we spend our money reveals what our hearts trust, love, and worship.

**Money will not make us happy.** 1 Timothy 6:17 talks about the "uncertainty of wealth." If you think that being promoted, earning more, saving more, or spending more will finally make you happy, you are in for a big letdown. Only God, who richly provides, can make us finally and fully happy.

**It is not wrong to work hard and earn money.** Proverbs 10:4 says, "Idle hands make one poor, but diligent hands bring riches." God designed us to provide for our and our neighbors' needs through work (Ephesians 4:28).

**God has prospered some more than others** (1 Samuel 2:7-8). This means that material blessing is not necessarily a sign of spiritual blessing.

**The best way to give is COMMIT TOI cheerfully.** 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "God loves a cheerful giver." God has been infinitely generous to us in Christ, but the Bible does not promise that if you give money, God will give you more money.

Adapted from an article by Justin Burkholder at <https://voices.lifeway.com/bible-theology/what-does-the-bible-teach-about-money/>