
Words of Truth

The Eyes Of Man Are Never Satisfied

By: Brian A. Yeager

Contentment is a seemingly impossible task for the majority of people. Yet, it is certainly an expected accomplishment for Christians. Notice this instruction of God: *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (I Timothy 6:6-10).

What you have read above should be the end of all there is to consider regarding being content. However, since God has said more than we have read, we will study some more. Furthermore, the fact that God has said anything means this is a problem we have to be aware of and steer clear of. The world constantly dangles before us the false message that happiness comes through material possessions. There is a constant message of getting the new, flashy, more prestigious, etc.

The pursuit of happiness through material things never brings satisfaction. Solomon, through inspiration, said this: *“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes... All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled”* (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 and Ecclesiastes 6:7).

We know that Solomon is correct in that He was moved by God to write what he wrote (II Peter 1:20-21). Additionally, we see the evidence of his words all around us. We see and may have even experienced how that gaining material possessions is never satisfying enough. At some point, if not immediate, there is that next thing you want. Then that next thing becomes old and the newer, greater thing becomes a desire. It is a cycle that does not end unless one comes to realize how futile it is to seek satisfaction through material things.

Never Satisfied

Consider this Scripture, which is partially quoted as the title of this article, as we proceed in our study: *“Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied”* (Proverbs 27:20). When anything said includes the word “never” it should be a statement taken into grave consideration. The word “never” leaves no room for qualifiers or exceptions. What more is there to be said?

The wisest earthly king, recorded in the Scriptures, said this: *“And whatsoever mine*

*eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, **all** was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun”* (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11). Can you see that having “it all” really amounts to having nothing at all?

What Do You Have If You Have It All?

If you obtained everything you could ever desire in life, how long would you have possession of those things? If they are not stolen from you, you might have them all of your fleshly life. However, you cannot take those things with you (Ecclesiastes 5:15-16). Those things you have gained possession of would then become the belongings of another or of others (Ecclesiastes 2:18).

Riches are not forever (Proverbs 27:24). God likened riches unto an eagle that flies away (Proverbs 23:5). Riches will not profit us in our salvation either (Proverbs 11:4, Zephaniah 1:18, and Luke 12:13-21). Thus, when you have it all physically, that means nothing spiritually as far as gain is concerned. Having it all physically may in fact really have the most negative impact on you spiritually (Matthew 19:16-26).

When you read through the Scriptures, those who had an abundance of material things often found that they ended up trusting in those physical things a bit too much (i.e. Revelation 3:14-22). Frankly, when you think about it, material wealth is apparently more troubling than anything else. Therefore, we should reach a point in our spiritual lives wherein we realize joy in whatever material state we find ourselves (Philippians 4:11-13).

Being Able To Have A Spiritually Minded Contentment

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). We should be content with our relationship with God. We should be joyful in thinking of the reward of eternal life that is ahead of us (I Peter 1:3-9). Being spiritually minded is about not make provisions to satisfy our fleshly lusts (Romans 13:14). We’ve learned that those lusts cannot really be satisfied anyway. So, why try?

The more we try to find pleasure in carnal things the more we are going to encourage the battle between our spirit and our flesh (I Peter 2:11). That internal war prevents us from doing the things we really need to be doing (Galatians 5:16-26). The conversion of the mind is paramount in regard to our pleasing God (Isaiah 55:6-9, Jeremiah 4:14, Matthew 23:25-28, Romans 12:1-3, Ephesians 4:21-24, and Colossians 3:10). Let’s be sure we realize that our carnal wants will never be able to be fully satisfied. In such a state of reality, we then should practice godly contentment.

Conclusion

Fleshly lusts lead to sin (James 1:13-16). Real satisfaction is not in sin (Hebrews 11:25). If we want our eyes to be satisfied, we need to set them on things above rather than on things of the earth (Colossians 3:1-4). Find joy in your eternal focus (Matthew 13:44)!