
Words of Truth

Hebrews 13:5-6

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“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. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5-6). Our study from this text will be mainly about contentment. From old, it was taught: *“Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom... A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent”* (Proverbs 23:4 and Proverbs 28:20).

As we break down the wording of the passages we are studying a little bit, we start with the word translated “conversation” [τρόπος]. One definition is: “a manner, way, fashion; as, even as, like as; manner of life, character, deportment” (Thayer; Strong’s # 5158). “Covetousness” [ἀφιλάργυρος] is defined as: “not loving money, not avaricious” (Thayer; Strong’s # 866). Therefore, the teaching is that the manner of living for a child of God is to be without the love of money.

To put Scriptures with that, consider what Paul taught Timothy: *“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. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (I Timothy 6:6-14).

It is not sinful to do well financially. In fact, if you read the whole context of what I just quoted above you will see that (I Timothy 6:17-19). Going far back into the word of God we find that a friend of God (James 2:23) was wealthy (Genesis 13:1-2). It is the love of money that puts one into a sinful state. Paul lived as a great example (I Corinthians 11:1). The congregation in Philippi financially supported Paul. When he was writing to them about that support, he pointed out that he was content with little or with much in regard to his financial

means (Philippians 4:10-20). God's people have to learn contentment (Proverbs 15:16, Matthew 6:19-34, Luke 3:14, etc.).

The Hebrew penmen drew a great thought for consideration. Contentment includes a mindset that having a relationship with God is enough. Throughout the Scriptures, God promised His faithful children that He would not forsake them (Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Joshua 1:1-9, I Samuel 12:1-25, I Chronicles 28:20, Psalms 37:23-28, Matthew 28:16-20, and II Timothy 4:10-17). We understand that God was a physical presence of old and brought carnal inheritances to His people (Deuteronomy 6:18 and Deuteronomy 12:28). We also understand that now our blessings are primarily in Heaven (Ephesians 1:3). What has not changed is that God does not forsake His people. When someone says God is not in that person's life, it is not God that moved. If we who are in Christ continue to walk in the light, our fellowship with God will not be broken (I John 1:1-7).

So, how is God our helper? Does He keep us from harm? No, God does not keep us from being harmed physically or even spiritually (Matthew 5:10-12, Acts 14:22, Romans 8:28-39, Galatians 3:1-3, Ephesians 5:6-11, II Timothy 3:12, Hebrews 13:9, and I Peter 4:12-19). Is God our helper in keeping us from suffering from hunger or thirst? No, God is not going to miraculously fill your refrigerator or keep you from being hungry (I Corinthians 4:11 and II Corinthians 11:27). What it does mean is that no person will, without your consent, be able to move you away from the spiritual blessings we have in Christ (John 10:27-29).

So, how does that keep us from fearing man? Consider what Jesus taught to those entrusted with continuing His work: *“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”* (Matthew 10:22-28).

Jesus did not promise safety. Jesus did not say everything would be fine. Jesus did not try to sell some sort of Heavenly security system for the flesh. What Jesus did promise is that those who could harm the faithful physically could do nothing to the soul of that faithful disciple. For us who are faithful, that has to be enough. Jesus came to offer eternal life to His faithful followers (Hebrews 9:15 and I John 2:24-25). While it is a blessing to have brethren and other benefits of being in Christ, if all else fails; eternity has to be enough!