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Sermon Notes

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## **Contentment in Marriage and Materials by Trusting in Christ**

### **Hebrews 13:4-6**

Giants in the Land:

As Israel was preparing to enter the Promised Land, they had to face their fears concerning the GIANTS who lived in the land... they were called “Anakites”, described again and again as stronger and taller than any of the Israelites; they were described as descendents of the Nephilim... an almost mythological race of men of astonishing strength and height... think Goliath—nine feet tall, able to throw a javelin that was more like a small tree than a slender spear; think a whole nation of these men! These were the Giants in the Promised Land that had to be conquered.

So it is with our salvation as well... though our opposition is spiritual; TODAY we are facing GIANT ENEMIES of massive proportion... two of the greatest idols that any of us ever face in our “battle for the heart”: the idols of sex and money

#### **I. The Battle for the Heart**

##### **A. The Affections of the Heart**

**John Piper: The heart is a desire factory. The human heart produces desires as fire produces heat. As surely as sparks fly upward, the heart pumps out desire after desire for a happier future. The condition of the heart is appraised by the kinds of desires that hold sway. Or, to put it another way, the state of the heart is shown by the things that satisfy its desires. If it is satisfied with mean and ugly things, it is a mean and ugly heart. If it is satisfied with God, it is a godly heart**

##### **B. Satisfaction in God Alone**

*Psalm 63:1-3 O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup> I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. <sup>3</sup> Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.*

##### **C. The Great Battle**

###### **1. The world, the flesh and the devil assault the human heart**

2. Satan wants to draw the heart away from sincere and pure devotion to Christ

#### D. The Grave Danger of Idolatry

1. Throughout the Old Testament, the Israelites wandered again and again into IDOLATRY... the worship and service of false gods and goddesses
2. Often God would send the prophets to warn them again and again about the wickedness of this sin...
3. They would make physical idols and bow down to what their hands had made
4. Paul captures the essence of idolatry in Romans 1:

***Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen.***

5. So, you don't have to make a physical idol to be an idolater
6. Anything you place ultimate value on over God is an idol

#### E. Here in this Text: The Two Greatest Idols that Assault our Hearts

1. The idol of sex
2. The idol of possessions
3. Both promise pleasure apart from God
4. Both go to the root of our being and eat away at the health of our souls
5. The LUSTS of our lives primarily reside in these two: the yearning for sexual pleasure, and the yearning for the pleasure of possession
6. They promise delight, pleasure, happiness... but apart from God and His righteous laws, they leave the idolatrous worshiper of them crushed and spiritual dead... devastated and empty
7. It is a shocking tragedy that those who have come to Christ, who have received from Christ the glorious forgiveness of sins, and the indwelling of the Spirit, and His love poured out into our hearts, and the gift of the Promise of Eternal Life... of eternity in heaven... should still in some sense be DISSATISFIED and hungry for something else
8. But this often happens to us... so the Author to the Hebrews is writing the Hebrew Christians, warning them of purity in these two vital areas—marital purity and freedom from the love of money

#### F. Here in this Text: God's gracious provision for battling idolatry

1. The gift of marriage: the God-ordained means for sexual fulfillment
2. The gift of possessions: the God-ordained allotment for your lives
3. The ultimate gift: CONTENTMENT with God and secondarily, with what God has provided

## II. Central Promise: I Will Be With You!

***Hebrews 13:5-6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"***

- A. The Two Great Idols—Sex and Money—are Defeated by Delight in an Even Greater God!!
  1. Idolatry is what we do when we are not delighted in God
  2. We run to sex and possessions when our hearts are restless and out of tune with God
- B. Scripture's Battle Plan to Defeat Idolatry: Faith in the Lord as the Delightful Satisfier of the Soul
  1. Faith latches onto WORD... PROMISE...
  2. Here God makes the overarching promise of our lives: I WILL BE WITH YOU
  3. I am the satisfier of your soul... I meet your deepest needs... I will protect you and uphold you and strengthen you and feed you and love you and provide everything for you
  4. TRUST IN ME... put your confidence fully in me... I will never leave you nor forsake you
  5. TRUST IN ME... I will be your helper... no one can fashion a weapon against you that will defeat you
  6. Let me satisfy your soul... trust in this promise, and don't run after the idols of the land... sex and money and earthly fleshly pleasures...
- C. The Original Promise to Joshua... Applied Now to Us
  1. Israel about to enter the Promised Land
  2. Joshua has taken over from the greatest man in the history of the Jewish nation to that point—Moses

3. The city of Jericho—a mighty citadel—awaited them, and after that, seven nations stronger than Israel, one after the other, all ready to fight to the death to protect their land
4. LOOKING AHEAD: it would have been easy for Joshua's heart to quail and fail
5. But God spoke this promise to him, and through him to the whole Jewish nation:

***Joshua 1:5-7 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup> "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. <sup>7</sup> Be strong and very courageous.***

6. Jesus is now speaking those exact same words to each and every one of us who are believers

D. Immanuel: It is Why Jesus Came

***Matthew 1:23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."***

E. Heaven: It is the Destination of our Souls

***Psalm 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.***

F. Earthly Pilgrimage: Battling Idolatry by the Greater Delight in God

### III. Crushing the Idol of Sex by Purity in Marriage

***Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.***

A. The Significance of Marriage

1. When it comes to marriage, we are entering one of the truly vital issues of the Christian life
2. From the very beginning of redemptive history, marriage has been at the center of the human story
3. Other than personal conversion, marriage is the single most significant event of a person's life
4. Therefore, it is HUGELY the focus of Satanic attack

5. A godly, healthy marriage can be an incredible pipeline of spiritual and material blessings for a whole lifetime; conversely, a sinful, unbiblical, disobedient marriage can devastate a whole lifetime
6. It is no overstatement to say that the marriage relationship is the most significant human relationship in the world—and the health of all human society is dependent on the health of the marriage

A.W. Pink: “We can form no conception of social virtue or happiness, actually no conception of human society itself without a proper understanding of the family. No matter how excellent the constitution and the laws of a country may be, or how vast its resources and prosperity, there is no sure basis for social order, or public as well as private virtue, until it be laid in the wise regulation of its families. After all, a nation is but the aggregate of its families, and unless there be good husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, there cannot possibly be good citizens.”

7. These comments are especially poignant given the recent debate on marriage in our state
8. I would assert that no lasting definition of marriage is possible apart from the revelation of the Bible: God has revealed what marriage is... once we turn away from that revelation, we will get in to ever weirder stranger definitions of marriage
9. Great tragedy: it is to be lamented that Christian standards on and views of marriage are frequently no different than those of the world

## B. The Excellence of Marriage

1. The text commands that marriage should be HELD IN HONOR by all people
  - a. The word “honor” relates to the word for “precious” or “valuable”
  - b. It is used to speak of “precious stones” in 1 Cor. 3:12 “gold, silver, costly stones”
  - c. It is used to speak of the PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST which redeemed you from sin in 1 Peter 1:19
  - d. Marriage should be ESTEEMED as PRECIOUS or valuable... worthy of protection, worthy of reverence by ALL PEOPLE
  - e. Only as society or the church esteems marriage properly will husbands and wives understand their immense responsibilities to uphold it honorably
2. Why is marriage so HONORABLE... so PRECIOUS? Because the Triune God has so honored it in Scripture

3. God the Father honored marriage by establishing it FROM THE BEGINNING

- a. God was very personally involved in forming the first marriage
- b. God thought it best to create the man, Adam, alone... first, to establish his headship and leadership over the world and over his wife
- c. Though at many steps of the creation process, God “saw that it was good”, God declared very plainly

***Genesis 2:18 “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”***

- d. God was personally involved in bringing the animals to Adam... but establishing that

***“For the man, no suitable helper was found.”***

- e. So God went personally to work to form a wife for Adam

***Genesis 2:21-22 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.***

- f. God the Father thus establishes marriage from the beginning, and then declares the permanence of this pattern:

***Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.***

4. God the Son—Jesus Christ—also honored the institution of marriage in some very significant ways

- a. First, by being born of a woman—Mary—who was betrothed in marriage to a man, Joseph; after Jesus was conceived in Mary’s womb by the Holy Spirit, an angel commanded Joseph

***Matthew 1:20 “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.***

Joseph subsequently MARRIED Mary by faith, though he withheld from sexual relations with her until after Jesus was born; from then on, Joseph and Mary lived together as a husband and wife in the same pattern which God had established from the beginning and Jesus grew up in that family; he was submissive to JOSEPH and to Mary... but specifically to Joseph because he was Mary’s husband; thus upholding the sanctity of marriage

- b. Secondly, by performing His first miracle at the wedding at Cana in Galilee, turning water into high quality wine
- c. Fourthly, by speaking of HIMSELF as the “bridegroom” in Matthew 9:15
- d. Fifthly, by using wedding analogies to speak of the Kingdom of God: the five wise and five foolish virgins are waiting for the bridegroom to come; another parable depicts God as a King who wants to throw a wedding banquet for His Son
- e. Sixthly, by His direct teaching on divorce in Matthew 19

***Matthew 19:4-6 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'<sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?<sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."***

- 5. Finally, the HOLY SPIRIT has honored marriage by giving us powerful teachings about the spiritual significance of marriage through the prophets and the apostles

***Isaiah 62:5 As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.***

***Hosea 2:16 "In that day," declares the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband'***

***Jeremiah 2:2-3 I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown.<sup>3</sup> Israel was holy to the LORD***

***Ephesians 5:31-32 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."<sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church.***

***Revelation 21:9 One of the seven angels ... said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."***

This language glorifies and honors marriage as a deeply spiritual, mysterious picture of God and His People, of Christ and the Church

So also in a very mysterious way, the sexual union between a man and his wife as they—male and female—become one flesh becomes a spiritual picture of the final perfect and SPIRITUAL union between Christ and His Church in heaven, when there will be no longer any need for marriage but people will be like the angels in heaven... but marriage itself will be perfected and consummated in the joyful unity between God and His People, Christ and His Church

6. SO... the TRIUNE GOD has lavishly honored marriage, and so must the church... everyone should HOLD MARRIAGE IN HIGH ESTEEM
  - a. This is true even if God has ordained singleness for you
  - b. Some people do not get married because, in the providence of God, He has given them the gift of singleness so they can serve Him with wholehearted and undivided focus, as Paul discusses in 1 Corinthians 7
  - c. But still, even for those called to be single, marriage should be HELD IN HONOR by all

### C. The Multifaceted Purpose of God in Marriage

1. Procreation: because God desired godly offspring... not merely offspring; from the beginning, God blessed them and said “Be fruitful and multiply”... and “godly offspring” requires the careful nurture of both a husband/wife in the normal way of God
2. Pleasure: because a godly marriage is a delight, a joy, a pleasure... sexual, relational, etc.
3. Purity: because this is the only God-sanctioned means by which we can be sexually active, sexually fulfilled and NOT SIN... every other sexual activity outside of one man, one woman in covenant relationship called marriage is SIN

Illus: Elizabeth Elliot asked to write a book on “Sex and the Single Christian” said “It’s going to be a VERY SHORT BOOK!”

4. Partnership: because “two are better than one”...to free us from loneliness
5. Progress: a “workshop of sanctification”... to help each person grow into Christlikeness and godliness
6. Proclamation: Because marriage is a powerful PICTURE of Christ and the Church to the outside world; and because a healthy, godly marriage is a marvelous platform for evangelism (to children first, and to the outside world second)

### D. Satanic Attacks on Marriage

1. The text speaks specifically of the ***“marriage bed being undefiled”***
2. The Greek term translated “bed” is directly related to the act of sexual intercourse in English... so there is little doubt that the Author is speaking of the need for ABSOLUTE SEXUAL PURITY in marriage



3. Satan has been hammering on human sexuality from the moment Adam and Eve ate that fruit, and their eyes were opened and they realized that they were naked so they were ashamed
4. Sexual temptation is a POWERFUL WEAPON in Satan's anti-God attack on the human soul

Bunyan's *Holy War*: I picture the human soul like a walled fortress; Satan's forces (the world, the demons) assaulting us, trying to get in... suddenly we notice that all of the enemy troops are running for one particular place in the wall... you know for a fact that they have opened up a breach and are seeking to flood in

So it is with sexuality: EVERY SINGLE HUMAN BEING IS A SEXUAL SINNER... there are no exceptions; we all are drawn in our hearts to imagine and sometimes even to act on illicit sexual pleasures

5.

#### E. Eight Organized Satanic Attacks on Marriage

The first two come right from our text

1. Fornication: " pornos"... sexual activity between unmarried people
  - a. Our world now is filled with fornication, and celebration of fornication
  - b. College campuses sexually charged, constant expectation of sexual activity between unmarried people
  - c. Post-college deferment of marriage indefinitely... why buy the cow when you can sneak into the pasture at night and steal the milk any time you want??
  - d. Young people living together before marriage, having sexual intercourse
  - e. Movies constantly depicting sexual acts between unmarried people
2. Adultery: sexual activity when at least one of the people involved is married to someone else
  - a. These two sexual sins are incredibly grievous... a total DISHONORING of the marriage bed
  - b. Again, adultery is downplayed and not seen to be as serious in our day and age
  - c. But the evidence even from popular culture is overwhelming: an incredibly successful athlete commits adultery multiple times, and his wife leaves him, divorces him, and sends his world into an amazing tailspin... he is

left a shell of his former self, and finds, amazingly, that he just doesn't perform as well as an athlete any more

3. Other Satanic assaults on marriage
    - a. Prostitution
    - b. Polygamy
    - c. Homosexuality
    - d. Legalistic celibacy
    - e. Divorce
- F. Special Words About Homosexuality
1. The words I am about to say concerning homosexuality from a biblical perspective I am afraid I may not be able to say so clearly in the future without fear of arrest
  2. There may come a day when any speech against homosexuality will be considered "HATE SPEECH" and be designated illegal, and meriting imprisonment
    - a. If you think I am overstating this, just look at what has happened in Canada
    - b. In October of 2011, the Canadian Supreme Court heard a critical case in which the rights of free speech were weighed against the protection homosexuals should have from "hate mongering"
    - c. In 2005, a specific anti-homosexual activist named Bill Whatcott had been found to be in violation of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission because he was distributing flyers denouncing homosexuality; he was fined \$17,500, and a lifetime ban was imposed on him from publicly criticizing homosexuality ever again
    - d. In April, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Mr. Whatcott and established his right to speak openly against homosexuality; but it is amazing that it even got that far
  3. The Marriage Amendment highlighted in bold relief once again the issue of homosexuality in American culture
  4. In the span of approximately one generation, the homosexual agenda has made absolutely astonishing progress in captivating the so-called "moral high ground" and making it what President Barak Obama calls a "civil rights issue"

5. More than ever before, Christians have to think clearly about homosexuality from a biblical point of view

a. According to Scripture, same-gender sex is sin in every case

***Leviticus 18:22 Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.***

b. Romans 1 makes it plain that this sin is “contrary to nature” and it is singled out as an especially egregious rebellion against what God has established; therefore, Christians must reject any appeals to nature in which we are told that homosexuality is wired into the genetic structure of a person and they have no choice but to be homosexual

***Romans 1:26-27 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup> In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.***

The word in Romans 1:26 for “shameful” is “dishonorable”... interesting, because our text in Hebrews speaks of the HONORABLE nature of marriage; but homosexual lusts are dishonorable

c. Several passages warn that homosexuals cannot inherit the Kingdom of God

***1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.***

d. 1 Corinthians 6 makes it clear that it is possible to repent from homosexuality and stop sinning in that way... so that someone can be a former homosexual

***1 Corinthians 6:11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.***

e. Though homosexuality is a serious sin, it is by no means an UNFORGIVEABLE SIN; the blood of Jesus is sufficient to cleanse any sinner from any sin

***Matthew 12:31 And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men***

f. People who struggle with same-sex attraction should be able to turn to the church and receive the help they need to fight their lusts as much as

someone who struggles with heterosexual pornography (which I'll discuss in a moment)

- g. Christians must be clear-thinking in their approach to homosexual friends and family members: they must understand that any sin is like a virus that threatens death, and it is NOT LOVING to lie to the sinner and say that it's okay to keep on sinning in that way; some Christians have spoken very passionately about how unloving it is to JUDGE homosexuals and be insensitive to their struggles; fair enough, but if the sin were shoplifting or drug addiction or swindling or rape, would we feel the same pressure to "accept and tolerate and be loving" and NOT address the outrageous sin? It is LOVING to tell someone the truth about sin and point to the only remedy—the gospel of Jesus Christ
- h. Christians also must be courageous in our stand toward the outside world: this may be one of the most important APOLOGETIC ISSUES of our day; Gospel Coalition Meeting: speakers doing presentations at Cambridge in England were answering questions that the audience was texting in; while not every question was used, the results were tabulated and later studied; the number 1 topic people wanted addressed was the usual—the problem of evil in a world supposedly ruled by an all-powerful, loving God; right behind it, though, was the Christian response to homosexuality; Christians are going to be made to look more and more extremist and "homophobic" (that makes opposition to homosexuality a mental illness!! Interestingly, someone who thinks that rape is evil would not be tagged with a similar label—rapeophobic)

#### G. Special Words About Pornography

1. One of the biggest attacks on the sacredness of the marriage bed in our age is pornography
2. In our lifetime, it has spread from Hugh Hefner's "Playboy" magazine which made porno mainstream to the astonishing and dismaying ease with which common people can be polluted on the internet
3. Staggeringly high percentage of men stumble in this area; one seminary student at SBTS while Christi and I were there basically threw away his marriage and his future as a seminary student to pursue internet pornography
4. Pornography is a direct attack on the sacredness of the marriage bed; Al Mohler put it this way:
5. Practical application: get serious about holiness and accountability

#### H. The Serious Warning

***Hebrews 13:4 God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.***

**Matthew 5:27-30** *You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'* <sup>28</sup> **But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.** <sup>29</sup> *If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.* <sup>30</sup> *And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

#### I. The Delights of God's Provision

1. Best way for success: follow God's provision
2. Enrich your marriage: husbands, love your wives as Christ loves the church
3. Wives, submit to your husbands and make yourselves beautiful for them but your gentle and quiet spirit, your godliness and your feminine submission
4. Delight in each other!!

**Proverbs 5:15-23** *Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.* <sup>16</sup> *Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?* <sup>17</sup> *Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.* <sup>18</sup> *May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.* <sup>19</sup> *A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.* <sup>20</sup> *Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?* <sup>21</sup> *For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.* <sup>22</sup> *The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.* <sup>23</sup> *He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.*

#### J. For the single people

1. Ultimate happiness does not come from marriage anyway
2. The best marriages in the world are between two Christians who are not living ULTIMATELY for their spouse but for Christ
3. So therefore single people have the opportunity to develop deeply their true source of happiness: their relationship with Jesus Christ

#### IV. Crushing the Idol of Money by Contentment in God

**Hebrews 13:5** *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

#### A. The Struggle with Covetousness

1. Again, we turn our minds to the basic issue of idolatry... the sin of covetousness
2. The Author is laying open our sin and giving us the remedy: contentment based on the promises of God
3. What is “covetousness”?
  - a. The word used here is literally “money love” or the love of silver (money)
  - b. But money itself is just a means to an end; it’s the power of money to buy the things of this world that is the danger
  - c. Covetousness = the over-eager desire for the things of this world
  - d. It is lusting after either what God has forbidden or what God has not provided
  - e. Fundamentally, covetousness is the opposite of contentment
  - f. Ten Commandments:

***Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."***

g. New Testament speaks clearly about the “love of money”

i) Requirements for elders

***1 Timothy 3:3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.***

***1 Peter 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;***

ii) Warning the rich

***1 Timothy 6:9-10 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.***

h. Love of money root of all kinds of evil

i) So many evil things flow from a desire to get rich

ii) So many evil things flow from a yearning for the things of this world

iii) Setting ultimate value on them

4. Money is meant to be a TOOL FOR THE KINGDOM, not a god dominating your life

B. The Grave Danger of Materialism

C. Opposite of Anxiety and Money-Love: Contentment

***Be content with what you have.***

***1 Timothy 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.***

***Philippians 4:12 I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.***

1. What is contentment?

Jeremiah Burroughs:

**Definition: Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.**

**"Contentment is a soul-business: an inward, quiet, frame of spirit."**

2. How is contentment related to faith?

- a. Contentment only comes when we TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES
- b. Otherwise, we must stockpile resources

***Proverbs 18:11 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it an unscalable wall.***

3. How is contentment better than money?

D. Basis of Freedom from Love of Money: God's Promises

1. The clear logic of the verse:

2. BECAUSE GOD HAS PROMISED NEVER TO LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU, you can be free from the love of money

E. The Incredibly Sweet Promise of God's Constant Presence

## V. Confidence in the Lord

***Hebrews 13:6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"***

### A. So What CAN Man Do to Me?

1. Man can do MANY things
  - a. Man can hate you
  - b. Man can insult you
  - c. Man can take your possessions
  - d. Man can attack and harm your body
  - e. Man can imprison you
  - f. Man can kill you
2. BUT Man cannot separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus
3. Man cannot take your place in heaven or your heavenly rewards
4. Man cannot take your faith
5. Man cannot take your wall of providential protection

### B. The Result of this "Confidence"?

1. A life of bold service to Christ
2. Specifically a life of evangelism and a life of freedom from fear of poverty