

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

The portion of Scripture before us today is found in Saint Paul's first letter to young Timothy, the sixth chapter beginning at the sixth verse:

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, ¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

And now may the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing and acceptable to You, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Dear Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb,

What, to you, is contentment? Is it being at ease? Is it being at a place where things are taken care of, but still others can arise? Is your idea of content just the fact that the house isn't burning down and no children have been lost today?

Would you say that you are content? If you are content, what are you content with? If you're not content, why not? What would make you content? What would it take to put your mind at ease: a decrease in bills, an increase in pay, a six-week vacation?

So many things, we think and say, would make us content, but let's be honest if we got all those things... we would simply want more. However, when it comes to God... when it comes to your Savior, are you content?

Dear friends, we live lives of constant pursuit. We pursue things we want to buy, people we want to be in a relationship with, and even political ideologies; but when was the last time you put in the time and effort to *pursue God*?

Paul begins our text with some sage words, "godliness with contentment is great gain," but do we believe this? Do we believe that if we have faith, if we have salvation, if we know our God and our Savior, that we need nothing else? I think that if we are honest with ourselves we

will answer with a resounding “NO!” We do not believe this fact. I think that we live in a world and a culture where if we do not have the latest and greatest, well then we are a failure.

Every year they come out with new cars... and why were last year's so bad? Every year they come out with new phones... and what is wrong with the two year old phone I have in my pocket? Every year they come out with new clothes, watches, jewelry, games, computers, you name it... and we are convinced that our old stuff is worthless.

And it feels like every day, we, yes you and I, come out with a new God. Maybe instead of the God of the Bible, today we are worshipping the god of football scores. Maybe instead of the God of the Bible, today we are worshipping the god

of financial stability. Maybe instead of worshipping the God of the Bible, we are worshipping ourselves.

You see, it is very easy to go from one god to the next, all it takes for most of us is a change in emotions. When we are happy the god of prosperity is right there at our side. When we are sad the god of despair and envy is with us. But notice, that many times it has to do with large emotional swings, does it not? If we remain reasonably stable, why would we have any reason to change? Is that not, after all, the very definition of stability, not changing?

And Paul tells us that “godliness with contentment is great gain.” Contentment, being happy with what we have, being stable emotionally, finding joy in the simple things in life... this mixed with

godliness is great gain. For as Paul continues “we brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing from it.” And this too, is the truth. We brought nothing into this world when we were born, and when we die we can take nothing from it. But oh how hard do we try?

I once heard a story of a man who upon his death was buried in his favorite cadillac, just so no one else could have it. I too have heard the saying that ‘he with the most toys wins’... but on the flip side I have heard, and believe, ‘he with the most toys still dies.’

So let’s go back to the beginning, are you content? Are you content with your life? Are you content with your job? Are you content with your home and family? While all of these are vital questions that

require us to be completely honest with ourselves, there is still an even more vital question: are we content with our Savior?

Is a Savior who lived a perfect life in perfect adherence to God’s Law enough for you? Is a Savior who hung on a cross suffering that agony enough for you? Is a Savior who died to take away all your sins enough for you? Is a Savior who is God Himself enough for you?

You see with job or house or life are all things that we can change and adjust... our Savior is not one that we can change or adjust. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Our Savior does not change. He lived and died for you. He was nailed to a cross for you. He rose from the dead for you. Jesus did everything for us... and that should bring to us a great deal of contentment.

And with that contentment comes godliness, or as some translate it, piety. Good living, a God pleasing life, a life that God can look down upon and be proud to say, “That is my child.” And though there are many times that God would look down on us and smite us... for the sake of Jesus Christ, His Son, our Savior, He loves us and says, “That is my child.”

As Paul tells us, *“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”*¹² *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*¹³ *I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who*

*witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,*¹⁴ *that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,*¹⁵ *which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,*¹⁶ *who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.”* God, through Paul, warns us to flee all things that would cause us to lose our contentment and our godliness and that we are to pursue God...

We are to pursue “righteousness” being right with God, “godliness” a God pleasing life lived through faith and contentment in His Son, “faith” in all that Jesus Christ has done and continues to do for you, “love” for God for our Savior and for our fellowman, “patience” with

ourselves for the any times we fall away from God and need help to be brought back again, and “gentleness” with those around us not being a bear but like Christ being gentle as a lamb.

Paul urges this type of life upon us because when Christ appears He will be with Him immortality... a life that does not end. When Christ appears to us, whether before or after we die, we know that we have heaven waiting for us. We know this because our Savior, with whom we can be content, is the King of kings and the Lord of Lords... He is the only one with immortality and who dwells in unapproachable light, He is our God.

Dear friends in Christ, what is contentment? According to the dictionary it is “a state of happiness and satisfaction.” When we stop pursuing all

the things of this world, which do not cause contentment... when we stop wanting the latest and flashiest... when we stop trying to keep up with the Joneses... maybe then we can find contentment in this world. But when Jesus Christ finds us, when He chooses us, when He accepts us as His dear brothers and sisters... when God loves us as His own dear children, it is then that we can be truly content.

Not content with the things of the world, because this side of heaven it will always be rocky, but we can find contentment with our Savior. Our Savior who loves us, who lived for us, and who died for us. We can be happy, knowing that God has cared so much for us and has done so much for us.

Thank God, that through His strength, through His Son, through His salvation

that He allows us to pursue Him. Friends,
pursue God... it is there that you will find
contentment.

Thanks be to God. Amen.