

WORD

*⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain,
⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and
we cannot take anything out of the world.*

1 TIMOTHY 6:6,7

Though the world tells us that we can have great gain through riches and acquiring more in life, the Bible says that we have great gain in godliness with contentment. What we have and who we are is not because of ourselves. It is only because of who God is and how He has blessed us. Without Him, we are nothing. We can therefore choose the world’s way of greed and evil, or we can choose God’s way, which leads to contentment. In this lesson, we will look at three ways to guard against greed.

1 Learn to be content in Christ.

But godliness with contentment is great gain . . . **1 TIMOTHY 6:6**

*Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned
in whatever situation I am to be content.* **PHILIPPIANS 4:11**

Paul learned to be content no matter what he had or didn’t have. He was content in Christ. In the same way, we conquer greed by learning to be content with what God has given us. Instead of looking at what we don’t have, we can be grateful for who God is and His faithfulness in our lives. Why do you think we need to “learn” to be content? Why can this be hard for us to do?

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2 Love God, not money.

*⁹But 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. ¹⁰For 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.* **1 TIMOTHY 6:9,10**

The desire to get rich is a trap. Since we don’t notice the danger, it can lead to sin, ruin, and destruction. Loving money leads to sin and can turn us away from faith in God. Jesus said that as His followers, we can’t serve both God and money (Luke 16:13). What is the greatest commandment (Deuteronomy 6:5)?

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3 Pursue righteousness.

*But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.
Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love,
steadfastness, gentleness.* **1 TIMOTHY 6:11**

If we are followers of Christ, we are commanded to flee this love for money, greed, and sin. Instead, we are to pursue and choose to do what honors God. We cannot live the way the world does. Recall a time when you chose to do what is right and godly, even when it was difficult? What happened?

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