

# Certainty... in a world of doubt

## The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, July 29/30, 2017 Ray Davis

### “Contentment” Luke 12:13-34

More will never be enough because we were made for something that earth does not offer. The inconsolable human longing is irrefutable evidence that we were made to find our deepest and most durable satisfaction in the riches of God’s glory.

#### **Beware of Covetousness:** v15

“Take care” = Gr. To recognize it when you see it

“Be on your guard” = Gr. To protect yourself from it

“Covetousness” = Gr. A misdirected or out of proportion desire for more.

It desires something so much that you lose your contentment in Christ. It believes that God and His provision are not enough.

In the “Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment” (1648), Jeremiah Burroughs defines contentment as “that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God’s wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.”

- 1) Blindness to the condition is an intrinsic part of the condition.
- 2) Be very suspicious of it by asking yourself questions about it.

**Signs of Covetousness:** vv20-21, 34 For where your treasure is...

#### Mental Signs

✓ Do you gloat over it? v19

✓ Do you worry about it? v29

#### Emotional Signs

✓ Do you look to it for security (Saver)? v24, see also v19

✓ Do you look to it for significance (Spender)? v27

#### Volitional (Action) Signs

✓ Do you chase it? vv29-30

✓ Do you stock-pile it? v33

#### **Breaking the Hold of Covetousness:** v32

Everyone wants it, very few find it, the billion dollar ad industry preys on our lack of it, poor men are rich with it, rich men are poor without it and it can only ultimately be found in the Good Shepherd (Ps23:1). What is it? Contentment!

- 1) All that I long for is found in God – Be Satisfied in God! vv32, 34; John 6:35
- 2) All that I have has been given by God – Thank God! In three verses (17-19) there are 15 personal pronouns. Job 1:21; 1Cor4:7; Eph5:19-20
- 3) All that I need is promised by God – Trust God! vv22, 25, 26, 28, 32; Phil4:19
- 4) All that I give is rewarded by God – Give to God! v33; 2Cor.9:6-7; Give Faithfully (Pro3:9-10), Save Systematically (Pro21:20), Spend Strategically (Pro24:3) 10/10/80
- 5) All that I do is accountable to God – Live for God! v31; Rom14:12; 1Cor10:31

“There is more treasure in the poorest body’s house, if he is godly, than in the house of the greatest man in the world, who has his fine hangings and finely-wrought beds and chairs and couches and cupboards of plate and the like. Whatever he has, he has not so much treasure in it as there is in the house of the poorest righteous soul.”-- (1648) Jeremiah Burroughs

### Growing Notes

- 1) More will never be enough because we were made for something that earth does not offer. Explain. What happens to people who never come to terms with the inconsolable human longing (Jer2:13; Rom1:25)?
- 2) Read Luke 12:13-34. What stands out to you? Against what did Jesus warn the crowd? Why (vv13-15)? What does it mean to “Take care and be on your guard” (v15)? What is covetousness? What is the opposite? How would you define contentment?
- 3) Why is the man in the story considered a “rich fool” from God’s perspective (vv20-21)? How does v34 assist us in revealing our covetousness? Review the “Signs of Covetousness”. Which one(s) do you most struggle with?
- 4) We can only break the hold of covetousness through contentment. Contentment isn’t a technique to be mastered but a person to be encountered. Explain (v32; John6:35). Review the five principles under “Breaking the Hold of Covetousness”. Why would these be characteristic of those who live in union and communion with Christ? What is God speaking to you and how will you respond (repent & believe)? Pray.