Covetousness is craving more of what you have enough of already. – Haddon Robinson

# Intro: We hear the religion of “not enough” early and often

1. Contentment protects your relationships
2. Wrong teaching feeds sick desires

v. 3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness …

v. 4 He has an unhealthy craving …

1. Christianity isn’t giving God good works to get good stuff

v. 5 people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain

1. Discontent poisons relationships

vv. 4-5 He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people ...

vv. 1-2 Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers …

* When did you first hear the message “not enough”?
* How are we tempted to see godliness as a “means of gain” today?
* How could contentment make a difference in our relationships?

1. Contentment guards your faith
2. We underestimate how deep this sin runs

v. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.

Luke 16:14 The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him.

Exodus 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Proverbs 30:8–9 … give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

1. The desire for more leads to personal and spiritual ruin

v. 9 But 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.

v. 10 It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

Philippians 3:19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

Proverbs 15:16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.

* How is the “love of money” a root sin? How does it lead to others?
* How might the Pharisees’ love of money led them to reject Jesus?
* What’s so bad about having your mind “set on earthly things”? What would that look like? What would it look like to not do that?

1. Contentment comes from trusting that Jesus is enough
2. Contentment is nurtured by eyes set on eternity

vv. 7-8 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

Job 1:21 And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

Matthew 6:25 … do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

1. Contentment is the greatest gift God gives

v. 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Philippians 4:12-13 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

* How does the fact that life is “more than food … and clothing” help us to be more content? ( Matthew 6:25)
* How is Christ’s strength “the secret” of contentment? (Philippians 4:12-13)
* How does God’s presence help us be content? (Hebrews 13:5)

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| **Study Ahead** | **Next week, we’ll study 1 Timothy 6:11-21** |

Notes