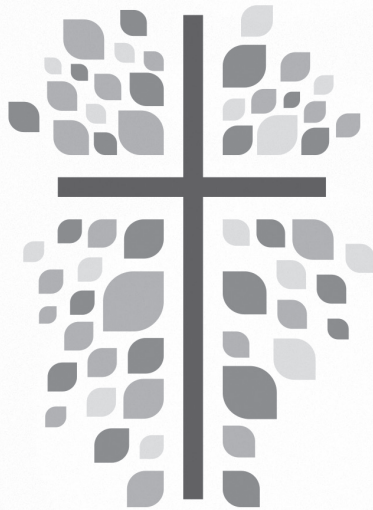


FINANCIAL HOPE

Find Freedom in Your Finances
Through God's Word



MICHAEL BLUE

RON BLUE
INSTITUTE
For Financial Planning

Content with What I Have

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.”*

Despite the nearly universal understanding that money doesn't buy happiness, most people still pursue money as a solution to their problems, worries, and fears. Why do we live as if we believe that more money leads to more happiness, when we know it won't?

At the beginning of their ministry, Bill and Vonette Bright, the founders of Cru (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ), wrote a contract committing all they had and everything they would make to God. This meant that they would have to rely on God for their needs and trust Him absolutely in everything that they did. Despite never having significant wealth, the Bright's lives were filled

with adventure and influence. They lived in complete surrender and reliance on God, and God used them in ways that defy explanation.

In 1996, Bill's commitment was tested when he was awarded \$1,000,000 as part of the prestigious Templeton Prize. He immediately gave the money away. When he was later asked if it had been hard to give away that much money, he responded that it wasn't, because he had given it away decades earlier in his contract with God. Knowing that contentment could only be found in God and that they would always be susceptible to the allure of wealth, the Brights ordered their lives to prioritize dependence on God over attaining wealth. As a result, their story is a testimony of God's tremendous blessing and faithfulness.

Even after we hear stories like these, it is still tempting to believe that more money is the solution to something in our lives. Money certainly is useful and necessary. However, the danger comes when we begin believing that money is our savior and the solution to our struggles. This mindset moves us to a love of money—meaning that money, instead of God, becomes our answer.

Until we can say like Paul, “in any circumstance I have learned the secret of being content,” and we have acknowledged that the amount we have has nothing to do with that contentment, we will struggle with a love of money. Money is not evil, but it is dangerous. The Brights recognized this, ordered their lives to safeguard themselves, and never looked back. If we do not learn to be content with what we have right now, we will not be content when our resources grow.

EXPLORING HEBREWS 13:5

What does a life that loves money look like?

What truth about God does the writer of Hebrews tie to contentment?

How might this truth speak to your own struggle with contentment?

“Keep your life free from love of money”

Read 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10. What does Paul need to be content?

Why does Paul warn against a desire to be rich?

Does Paul say it is wrong to be rich?



What does loving money lead people to?

“Be content with what you have”

Are you content with what you have right now?

Read PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13. What is Paul’s “secret” to contentment?

How have you experienced learning contentment as a process in your life?

Read JAMES 1:17. How does the reality that everything you have and everything you are is a gift from God impact you?



How can gratitude lead you toward contentment?

“I will never leave you nor forsake you”

Take a minute to write a short list of the most important material things, relationships, and immaterial things in your life.

Read MATTHEW 6:25-33. How does God’s care for birds and lilies provide assurance that what you have today is enough?



When you find that you are anxious about financial things, where do you usually turn? How might this passage change your perspective on financial worries?

APPLYING HEBREWS 13:5

How can you more boldly rely on God as your provider and source of confidence, fostering greater contentment in the coming days and weeks?

Take a few moments to ask God to give you discernment about where in your life a love of money could be taking root.

