

How to Survive in Difficult Economic Times.

Part 2

“The Secret of Contentment”

But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. – I Timothy 6:6-10

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Jim Elliott

QUESTION: How do we have the right perspective when it comes to money?

Four principles from God’s word that can help us overcome discontentment.

1. Money cannot bring contentment.

➔ Definition of contentment: An inner sufficiency that keeps us at peace in spite of outward circumstances.

➔ A lie we can easily believe is: “The more I have, the more content I will be.”

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. ¹¹As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? ¹²The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep. ¹³I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, ¹⁴or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him. ¹⁵Naked a man comes from his mother’s womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand. – Ecclesiastes 5:10-15

QUESTION: If money cannot bring true contentment, then what can?

ANSWER: ¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry,

whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength. – Philippians 4:11-13

“True contentment comes from godliness in the heart, not wealth in the hand.”

Warren Wiersbe

2. Money will not last.

and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” – Job 1:21

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? – Mark 8:36

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ²Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, ³because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. ⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷We live by faith, not by sight. ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. II Corinthians 5:1-8

3. The love of money will lead to destruction.

➔ Paul describes a person who has to have more and more material things in order to feel happy, validated or successful.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. – I Timothy 6:17-19

4. God will provide.

“A man is wealthy in proportion to the number of things he can afford to do without.”

Henry David Thoreau

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:19