



Let your conduct *be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.*

*For He Himself has said,
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

*So we may boldly say:
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*

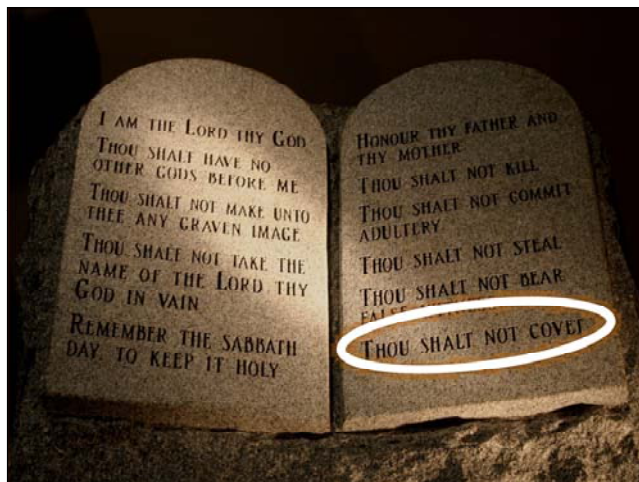
(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Some of the most sinister sicknesses are the ones that go undetected for long periods of time.

Unbeknownst to you, they are reeking havoc in your physical body while you are unaware

What is true physically is also very true spiritually. Today, I want to talk to you about just such a sinister spiritual disease that may be effecting you today.

1



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Covetousness....recognize

In God's "Top Ten" things for our lives – Ten Commandments
- From God's perspective, it is obviously a "big deal"

Yet, tell you from outset today, we don't always see it as such
- covetousness – not something many worry about
- when people come to talk about what struggling with – not this

2

"I've been in a lot of testimony meetings, and I've heard a lot of people share how they've sinned, and I've had people come to me and make confession of sin. But in all my life I've never had one person confess the sin of covetousness to me."



Charles Spurgeon, Pastor in London (1834–1892)

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Why? Perhaps not seen as that bad of a thing...

- some even see almost a virtue
- but God does not

3

Diagnosis of Covetousness
Consequences of Covetousness
✚ Can be Spiritually Fatal



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Today...want to present to you a
"Cure for Covetousness"

- that is what is in this verse...

Yet...before we see the cure, we need to see the disease

- or won't see need for cure

Imagine with me...sitting with a doctor – diagnosing you

- Doctor says: "We are running tests, but I am concerned, it may be covetousness."
- "Give it to me straight, doc", you reply. What does that mean
- He replies..."you need to know, this may be fatal"

4

Do you not know that the
unrighteous will not inherit the
kingdom of God?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

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can man do to me?"*

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

It is going to take a minute for me to
get to the point...but follow along
with me...

Those who are unrighteous, living
unrepentantly – not saved
- saw this briefly last week....

5

Do not be deceived. Neither
fornicators, nor idolaters,
nor adulterers, nor homosexuals,

will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Let's focus on the "hot topic" of
homosexuality
- very clear – impossible for
someone to be a practicing,
unrepentant homosexual and be
saved...

Before you think I am a
"homophobe" – notice what is
around it....

6

Do not be deceived. Neither
fornicators, nor idolaters,
nor adulterers, nor homosexuals,

will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Although true of homosexuality, is
also true of fornication, adultery
(looked at last week)

- same – cannot be living an
unrepentant practicing life of
fornication, adultery or
homosexuality and be saved

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

7

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1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Does this mean a homosexual cannot
be saved? NO!

- very next verse shows us this

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can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

8

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

God rescues, saves and redeems sinners – great hope

9

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

So...with me so far – impossible for someone to be a practicing, unrepentant homosexual and be saved.

- When a person who has dabbled in homosexuality is saved – see as sin, broken over
- still often struggle with temptation, actually true for any and every sin – open door
- but will see as sin, unable to live in it, to stay in it...

True? Yes.

- maybe two here today struggling with this reality. All that is in the media and the world say differently than this – but the Bible is clear. Can't living in homosexuality and be saved.
- For many of you – you understand. With that....think about this

10

Do not be deceived. Neither
fornicators, nor idolaters,
nor adulterers, nor homosexuals,
nor sodomites, nor thieves,
nor covetous, nor drunkards,
nor revilers, nor extortioners
will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

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can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

What is true about homosexuality is
also true about covetousness!

Did you hear me? Understand?

- for many, understand the sin of
homosexuality – wrong, see as
spiritually deadly....
- Yet do you see covetousness on the
same level? It is.

Because we don't think it as bad as it
is....it can often be one of those sins
– deadly, but silent, reeking havoc.

Yet, it is not because God's word is
not clear....

11

For this you know, that no
fornicator, unclean person, nor
covetous man, who is an idolater,
has any inheritance in the kingdom
of Christ and God.

Ephesians 5:5

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"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we may boldly say:
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

God says it again and again....as He
does even here in Ephesians...

12

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Ephesians 5:5

No covetous man has any inheritance
I the kingdom of God

Covetousness – is actually a form of
idolatry....interesting...

Simply put....it is bad

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

13

Diagnosis of Covetousness Consequences of Covetousness

- ↳ Can be Spiritually Fatal
- ↳ Can be quench Spiritual life



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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Back to the scene of sitting with
doctor...

- “Doc”, you say, “is it always fatal,
is there any hope”
- “no”, the doc replies, “not all who
are diagnosed with covetousness
die....can have a lesser effect.”

Say it differently – covetousness can
keep one from being saved
- yet, a real Christian can still
struggle with this and be saved.

14

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:5

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Bible calls us as Christians to put this away
- so, Christians can and do struggle with this.

Point of our text – let the way we live our lives...not be with covetousness.

Point again – bad! It kills some, and greatly poisons others, robs, destroys.

- my aim...that you not see this as some “soft sin”, minor. It is major

15

Diagnosis of Covetousness Consequences of Covetousness

- ↳ Can be Spiritually Fatal
- ↳ Can be quench Spiritual life
- ↳ Biblically a huge issue
 - Balaam loved wages of unrighteousness
 - Achan coveting Jericho's riches
 - Gehazi coveting Naman's treasures
 - Judas sold Jesus for money
 - Ananias and Saphira



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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Although our culture plays down...God does not.
- consistent pictures of how dangerous throughout word!

Clear examples of those whose lives were ruined by covetousness

16

Diagnosis of Covetousness
Consequences of Covetousness
Symptoms of Covetousness

- ↳ NOT about having or not having
- ↳ Is Wanting what don't have



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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Imagine the scene again. Sitting with
doctor. News of possible
covetousness before you.
You ask: what are the symptoms doc?
How do I know?

How do we know if covetousness has
gotten a hold of us....

Not about having or not having

It is about wanting!
Is Wanting what don't have

17

For the love of money is a root of
all kinds of evil, for which some
have strayed from the faith in their
greediness, and pierced themselves
through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10

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can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Notice – not money is the root of all
evil.

But loving money – root of much
evil. True

Covetousness is poisonous

Love, greed – picture here not of
"casual longing"

- who wouldn't want a million
dollars if offered right now?

- speaking here of passion,
consuming....lit. stretching out for
– reaching for.

18

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Diagnosis of Covetousness

Consequences of Covetousness

Symptoms of Covetousness

- ↳ NOT about having or not having
- ↳ Is Wanting what don't have
 - Driving Desire – lit. stretching after what don't have
- ↳ Is Complaining about what do have
- ↳ Includes money...but also more



Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Driving desire, stretching
Controlling life

How decisions are made

Includes money...but more

20

You shall not covet
your neighbor's house; **Stuff**
your neighbor's wife, **Relationship**
nor his male servant, **Position**
nor his female servant,
nor his ox, **Power**
nor his donkey,
nor anything that **Anything**
is your neighbor's.

Exodus 20:17

Ten Commandments
Notice what it includes.

Wanting anything that is not ours,
stretching out for anything that is
belonging to others....

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

21

Diagnosis of Covetousness
Consequences of Covetousness
Symptoms of Covetousness

- ↳ NOT about having or not having
- ↳ Is Wanting what don't have
 - Driving Desire – lit. stretching after what don't have
- ↳ Is Complaining about what do have
- ↳ Includes money...but also more
- Q – do you see how dangerous covetousness is?



Covetousness is dangerous

Do you see the symptoms
- worried about the “hypochondriac”
here
- more worried about the one living
in denial

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

22

Notice what Jesus says

And He said to them, "Take heed
and beware of covetousness"

Luke 12:15

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

23

there will be false teachers among
you, who will secretly bring in
destructive heresies...many will
follow their destructive ways...
By covetousness they will exploit
you with deceptive words

2 Peter 2:3

Scary thing is this.

World embraces covetousness as a
good thing – motivator

False teachers will and do cloak
covetousness as a spiritual thing.

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

24

Diagnosis of Covetousness
Consequences of Covetousness
Symptoms of Covetousness
Cure for Covetousness - Contentment
↳ Not based on what you have...



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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

There is a cure....hope
- prayerfully see the need

Cure is contentment

Key – contentment has nothing to do
with how much I have
- nothing!
- not one person here this morning
that cannot be content today

25

I have learned in whatever state I
am, to be content:

Philippians 4:11-13

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be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we may boldly say:
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Notice- have learned
- may God teach today

In whatever state I am – any
- not one person here that cannot be
content....

26

I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound.

Philippians 4:11-13

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Able to be poor
But also
Able to be rich

Content is often seen as being poor and being content to not be rich.

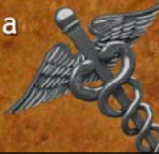
Not!

Content can have either...not about having or not having

27

Diagnosis of Covetousness
Consequences of Covetousness
Symptoms of Covetousness
Cure for Covetousness - Contentment

- ↳ Not based on what you have...
 - ↳ Based on God - What He says to us
 - His commitment to be WITH us
 - His commitment to CARE for us
- Covetousness, Complaining is a slight against God



Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Basis is God! Who He is
Basis is His promises to us!

His commitment to be with us
- simply He never fails! Never
- Christian, never abandons you

His commitment to care for us
- wording speaks of upholding
- He would never not provide
- wow...so many places could go
- Knows hearts, cares for us, thoughts toward us greater...
- simple – He is caring, providing

Thus – covetousness, complaining – are against Him!

28

Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

Exodus 16:2-3

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

29

He hears your complaints against the Lord. But what are we, that you complain against us?... for the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord."

Exodus 16:2-3

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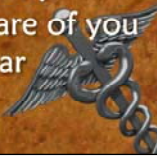
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30

Diagnosis of Covetousness
Consequences of Covetousness
Symptoms of Covetousness
Cure for Covetousness – Contentment

- ↳ Based on What God says to us
 - His commitment to be WITH us
 - His commitment to CARE for us
- ↳ We can say (rest in and believe)
 - Recognize Him as taking care of you
 - Not to be controlled by fear
 - Not to focus on people



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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

We can say....notice the flow

- He does say – faithful
- we can say....possible
- He is faithful, we are called

Recognize His help, care

- can be confident in it!

Not be controlled by fear

- covetousness often is
- fear of future. Fear missing out

Not focused on man

- afraid...more
- much discontent is worried about
what others think about us
- comparing ourselves with others

31

"Therefore I say to you, do not
worry 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?"

Matthew 6:25-27

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"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

32

Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Matthew 6:25-27

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"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we may boldly say:
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

33

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

Matthew 6:31-32

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we may boldly say:
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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

34

“Therefore do not worry, saying,
‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall
we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’
For after all these things the
Gentiles seek.

Matthew 6:31-32

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

35

“Therefore do not worry, saying,
‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall
we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’
For after all these things the
Gentiles seek.

For your heavenly Father knows
that you need all these things.

Matthew 6:31-32

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36

But seek first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness, and all these
things shall be added to you.

Matthew 6:33-34

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

37

Therefore do not worry about
tomorrow, for tomorrow will
worry about its own things.

Two questions to help us...

1) Is contentment "karma"?

Matthew 6:33-34

Let your conduct be without covetousness;
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For He Himself has said,
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Is contentment karma – that what I
have is what I deserve, need...just
accept this?

38

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.

Two questions to help us...

- 1) Is contentment "karma"? **NO!**
- 2) Is contentment complacency?

Matthew 6:33-34

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Karma? NO.

- simple thing – might have missed God's provision
- but forgiveness, past behind
- contentment does not dwell on the past...

Is contentment complacency

- rob us of desire? Do well, press after good things

39

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.

Two questions to help us...

- 1) Is contentment "karma"? **NO!**
- 2) Is contentment complacency?
NO! Contentment is about today!

Matthew 6:33-34

Let your conduct be without covetousness;
be content with such things as you have.

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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Complacency? No

Point of contentment – is focus is today. Not worrying about tomorrow.

Taking any opportunity or door that God opens today, but not stressing about a lack of doors

Lets apply....

40

You shall not covet
 your neighbor's house; **He provides**
 your neighbor's wife, **He is over**
 nor his male servant, **He can exalt**
 nor his female servant,
 nor his ox, **He is able**
 nor his donkey,
 nor anything that **He is over all**
 is your neighbor's.

Exodus 20:17

Stuff – if I need it, God will give

- if opens a door today, great
- going to trust Him

Relationship

- if a door opens, great
- but will be content today

Etc

Let your conduct *be without covetousness;*
be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

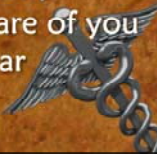
So we may boldly say:
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

41

Diagnosis of Covetousness
Consequences of Covetousness
Symptoms of Covetousness
Cure for Covetousness – Contentment

- ↳ Based on What God says to us
 - His commitment to be WITH us
 - His commitment to CARE for us
- ↳ We can say (rest in and believe)
 - Recognize Him as taking care of you
 - Not to be controlled by fear
 - Not to focus on people



Let your conduct *be without covetousness;*
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For He Himself has said,
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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

42

Give me neither poverty nor
riches— Feed me with the food
allotted to 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.

Proverbs 30:8-9

Let your conduct *be without covetousness;*
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For He Himself has said,
“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

So we may boldly say:
“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Consider this great thought, prayer

God knows you – perfectly
- there is a perfect balance that God
only knows in your life – not too
much, not too little.
- right prayer, give me what You
allot to me....perfectly

43

In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is
in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 6:9-11

Let your conduct *be without covetousness;*
be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

So we may boldly say:
“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

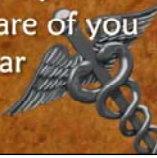
This is how Jesus taught us to pray

His will, His supply...today
- not dwelling on past or future

44

Diagnosis of Covetousness
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Cure for Covetousness

- ↳ Based on What God says to us
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"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Walk through again...review

Do you see danger? Huge
Symptoms
Cure....

45

Happy is he who has
the God of Jacob for his help,
Whose hope is in the Lord his God

Psalms 146:3-5

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be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
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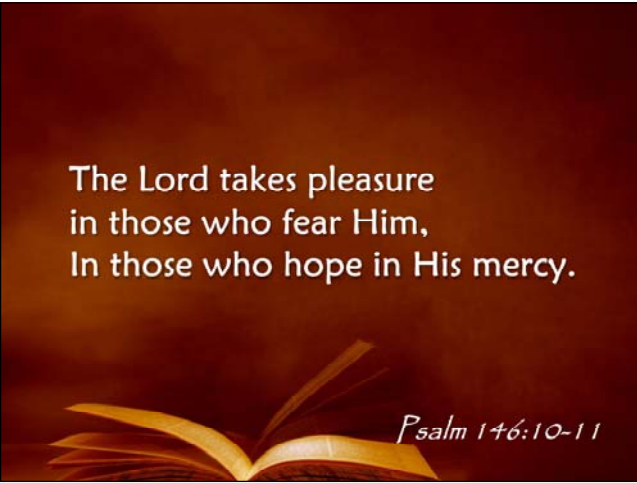
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(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Happy if recognize this Christian

Love the God of Jacob part
- some struggle, know God is
faithful...but what if I messed up
- God is caring for Jacobs....

46



The Lord takes pleasure
in those who fear Him,
In those who hope in His mercy.

Psalm 146:10-11

Let your conduct be without covetousness;
be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we may boldly say:
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

The Lord enjoys us trusting Him
- WOW....

47



Then Jesus said to His disciples,
"Assuredly, I say to you that it is
hard for a rich man to enter the
kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:23-24

Let your conduct be without covetousness;
be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we may boldly say:
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Yet...not true of all
Not all have God as your help
- if not saved...not yours

Problem – riches, covetousness
holding some....

Q – we live in a rich nation, most if
not all here – rich. Covetousness is
normal...and today in America –
hard to be saved

48

And again I say to you, it is easier
for a camel to go through the eye
of a needle than for a rich man to
enter the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 19:23-24

Let your conduct be without covetousness;
be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

So we may boldly say:
“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?”

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

49

When His disciples heard it, they
were greatly astonished, saying,
“Who then can be saved?”
But Jesus looked at them
and said to them,
“With men this is impossible, but
with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:25-26

Let your conduct be without covetousness;
be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

So we may boldly say:
“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?”

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

Today...God is drawing....not
impossible through Him

If He is drawing You – call you to
Him

50



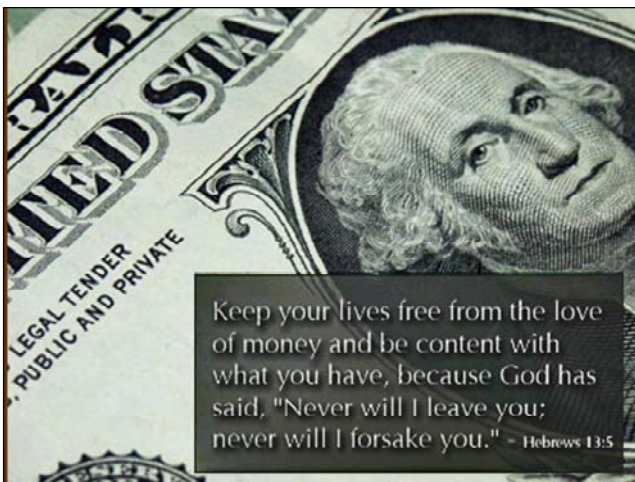
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can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

51



Keep your lives free from the love
of money and be content with
what you have, because God has
said, "Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you." - Hebrews 13:5

Let your conduct *be without covetousness;*
be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

So we may boldly say:
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:5-6)

52



The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

*What can man
do to me?*

- Hebrews 13:6

Let your conduct be without covetousness;
be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said,
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