

## BEING CONTENT

*Keep your life free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"*  
Hebrews 13:5,6

### REFLECTION

Part of our human nature is what economists have identified as our insatiable wants. This is an assumption which advertising people have used to great effect in marketing products and services. They understand our human condition and play on our desire to acquire more things.

We wish we have more money to spend on things associated with what the world considers as success. We want more money to buy more things even if we do not really need them. In the process we live a life pre-occupied with wanting to have more and to own more.

However if we truly want to live a life that is more fulfilling than chasing after more money, the Bible has much to teach us to get out of such futile pursuit. The writer of Hebrews advises us to be "content with what you have." After all God is always there to attend to our needs and to ensure that we are free from want.

What we must not do when pressurized by the value system of our acquisitive society is to be "possessed by our possessions" or to be enslaved by our pursuit of wanting to have more money. Jesus himself has warned us, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will love the one and hate the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despised the other. You cannot serve God and money." (Matthew 6:24)

There is nothing wrong having money. The lesson is not that we should reject money, as it were, but that we should not be preoccupied with money until we become enslaved by such a pre-occupation and we start to worship money without even knowing that we have been taken in by the worship of money.

Here is an attitude from Paul which we can adopt to free us from being taken in by the lure of money or overcome by the lack of money.

*"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstance. I 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." (Philippians 4:11,12)*

### PRAYER

*"Father God, thank you for watching over us and attending to our material needs as well as our spiritual well-being. Keep us from the temptation of wanting to have more. Protect us from falling into the trap of worshipping money instead of worshipping you. In the name of Jesus. Amen."*

### SUPPLICATION

- We give thanks to God for providing us our daily needs and giving us access to medical care. This is not something many people can enjoy in other countries around the world.
- While we thank God for His blessings, we pray that those who are struggling in poverty, whether in Singapore or elsewhere - people in need of food, shelter or medical care - will have their needs met by God.
- Pray for our church to be truly a place where Christ is honoured in our worship, witness and work. Ask God to grant our pastors, leaders and members a deep desire to love Him more, and to seek to follow the teachings from our faith.
- Continue to pray that God will raise up people of good character - leaders with courage, foresight, justice and wisdom - to provide leadership in the state, academia, business, media and our churches.

*"Wherefore are ye doubting and fearing,  
And not to his word giving heed?  
This promise for you has been written;  
'My God shall supply all your need.'  
Lelia Morris*

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,  
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