

RICH IN GOOD WORKS

Meditating on Hebrews 13:5 recently, the Lord gave some insight to this Scripture that had always been a little perplexing to me before. "Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." It had always seemed that He's talking about 2 different things, one telling us to be content, then the other giving us security about His Presence in our life. Then suddenly understanding came: the promise at the end of the Verse is telling us HOW we can find contentment and remain free from the love of money and desiring the things of this world!

"Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share." I Timothy 6:18

Think about it: why do people spend so much time and energy pursuing money and the things that money buys? Because they think that things and the pleasures that money can buy will bring the happiness they are searching for. But they (and most Christians today) have not experienced the reality of Psalms 107:9, "For HE satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul HE has filled with what is good." God says that the soul is "longing" and "hungry". For what? For happiness, peace and fulfillment. Like a man taking his broken watch to the car wash to get it fixed, human beings are looking to the things of the world instead of their Creator to repair their broken hearts and meet the desires of the soul. If we truly understand that our happiness and satisfaction is found in Him, NOT in the things and pleasures of this world, then we find the secret of contentment and the secret of Hebrews 13:5. The fact that HE is with us is all we need to be at peace in this world. If we know that, then we can even be like these Hebrew believers "who accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one" (10:34). Hallelujah! This is exciting news, unless we have our hope for peace and joy in the wrong place. And if our happiness and peace is in the things and comforts of this world, then we're just fooling ourselves to even think that we could be like Paul & Silas in the jail!

Most that may read this would never think of themselves as rich. But travel to India, Africa, China and the Orient, South America or other places where 2/3 of the world lives, and IF you can be honest with yourself, you'll probably gain a different perspective. But even if we don't think of ourselves as rich by man's standards, let's look at I Timothy 6:17-19 and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to us. "Instruct

those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God (where are we to fix our hope?), Who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."

Please consider this: the Lord was instructing the "rich", those who had no carpet, cars, washers & dryers, electricity, TVs or VCRs, central heat & air, etc., etc.. Do you think He's trying to speak to us?

