

Turning the Crap of Life, Into the Fruit of the Spirit I don't want underwear for Christmas. Learning to be Content

What does it mean to be rich? How would you define it to someone? What is the amount of money or possessions you would need to feel rich? With all that, what would you do with it, how would you use it? If you cannot define it in your life, why would you seek it? So many people spend the entirety of their life seeking to be rich, but do not know what it means. A life like Christ that of a Christian life should be a life of contentment, with a priority not on riches but on Christ and the Kingdom, seeking the Kingdom first.

Remember as a child opening presents of Christmas morning? There was always that one box, that one gift that you knew had underwear in it. Who wants underwear for Christmas? You want toys and games, things that you could never get during the year. If your underwear was bad someone would replace it.

Content, *adj.*, satisfied with what one is or has; now wanting more or anything else

How can you be content in a discontent world?

1. You have to make a decision to be content. (Self-complacent, contented)

A content person is so satisfied with the wise providence and goodness of God, that they know whatever He determines is the best. Godly wisdom defines that person and makes sure they are focused on Christ. What do we get by murmuring and complaining?

Philippians 4:11-13

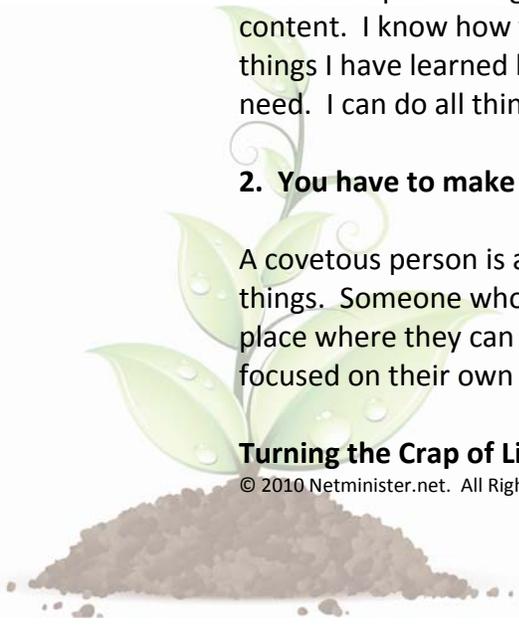
Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased and I know how to abound. Everything and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2. You have to make a decision to know what enough is. (be sufficient, enough)

A covetous person is always running into futility because of an insatiable desire for things. Someone who is discontent with life never gets their fill. They never find the place where they can be content and happy. Misery follows because the person focused on their own needs which are insatiable, never filled. They are like a hungry

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person who never gets their fill.

Hebrews 13:5-6

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?

3. You have to make a decision to rise to the occasion. (to avail or to rise to the need at hand)

We should seek after the things that we need, not uncertain riches that moth and rust destroy. A life of content focuses on the need to follow the Kingdom of Christ, not our own wants. It changes our priorities, our rewards and our vision for our life. We should make Him (Jesus) the pursuit of our lives and not riches which bring with them perilous worry and anxiety.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing with these we shall be content. But those that desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 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.

4. You have to make a decision to use what it is you have

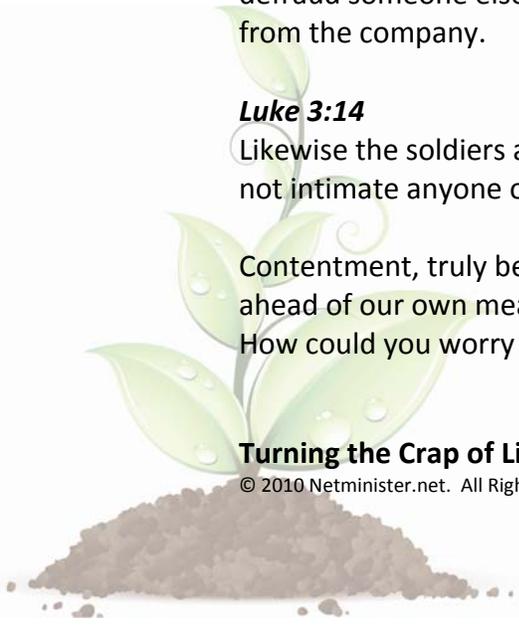
Jesus is telling the soldiers, you agreed to be paid what you are paid. It was your decision to take the pay, so be content with it. We are most discontent not when we look at our own pay but when we realize someone else may be making more money than we. Our contentment turns to discontent. Discontent leads to the desire to defraud someone else, either by complaining about them to the boss or outright theft from the company.

Luke 3:14

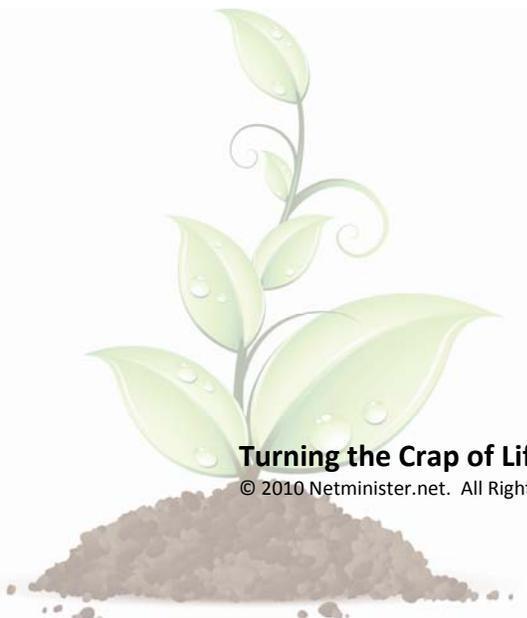
Likewise the soldiers asked Him saying, "and what shall we do?" So He said to them, "do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely and be content with your wages."

Contentment, truly being able to say I have what I need and put the priorities of Christ ahead of our own means that we cannot worry. True contentment drives out worry. How could you worry when the maker of the heavens and earth has said He knows your

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needs and will never leave you? But only true contentment comes from God. Only He can provide the peace that comes with it and He will through our relationship with His son Jesus Christ.



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