

"I Shall Not Want"

Contentment

Introduction:

1. This statement is the theme of this series of lessons.
2. The details of this theme will be studied as we work our way through the Psalm.
3. This lesson will focus on the concept of contentment.

I. The Pursuit of Happiness

- A. What do you want in life?
- B. What is the one thing that you are missing that will make you happy?
- C. We have turned the "pursuit of happiness" into the great rat race!
- D. Yet God offers escape from such enslavement to the world.
- E. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want!"

II. The Pitfall of Hubris

- A. Man thinks he can satisfy himself with carnal doctrines and material wealth.
- B. Solomon tried this and learned three vital lessons:
 1. Your possessions are not yours (Ecc. 5:13-16; cf. Job 1:21; Psa. 49:16-20; Luke 12:20; 16:24).
 2. Your possessions are not you (Ecc. 4:8; 5:10; 6:7; cf. Luke 12:15; Matt. 6:25; Job 2:4).
 3. Your purpose is not from yourself (Ecc. 12:13-14).
- C. Man needs a shepherd – we need our Creator to show us and guide us in the true purpose of our lives.

III. The Power of Harmony

- A. "Godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6).
- B. The children of Israel were not content (Exo. 15:24 – 22 times!)
- C. If we are content with godly living, we will never want (1 Tim. 6:6-19; Psa. 37:16; Prov. 15:16; 16:16; Ecc. 4:6; Matt. 6:33).
- B. "God Hath Not Promised" by Annie Johnson Flint

Conclusion: Is the Lord your shepherd?