

CONTENTMENT:

How Can I Find Contentment in This Life?

Proverbs 30:8-9



Dr. William R. Glaze
Bethany Baptist Church
September 25, 2016
Copyright 2016

BACKGROUND TO THE PASSAGE

Proverbs 30 is written by a man named Agur (1). He starts out with a self-rebuke because he had not acquired the wisdom and knowledge available to him (2-6). The rest of the chapter consists of six numerical sayings (7-9, 15b-16, 18-19, 21-23, 24-28, 29-31). In the verses under consideration, he desired to see two realities exist in his life before he died. First, that vanity and lies would be far removed from him. Second, to not have poverty or riches but enough to live on each day. In other words he wanted to be content.

THE REWARDS OF CONTENTMENT

Contentment Will Keep One from Denying God.

“Give me neither poverty nor riches... Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who *is* the LORD?” The writer realized that having an abundance of material possessions could lead to the temptation to trust in self and forget that there is a God in whom we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). A perfect example of this is Nebuchadnezzar who one day walked throughout his palace and proclaimed, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” (Dan. 4:30). He completely left God out of the equation.

Contentment will Keep One from Denouncing God.

“...feed me with food convenient for me...or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*.” Agur wanted God to provide food convenient (necessary) for him. With this statement he goes to the other end of the spectrum—from riches to poverty. In his poverty, he might be tempted to steal and curse God because he became a thief. Hunger can cause a person to do many things and one is to convert to a life of thievery. Even though it is not God’s fault, one might think that “if God provided for me, I would not be in this situation.”

THE RESOLUTIONS OF CONTENTMENT

In order for a person to be content, he/she must make three resolutions:

Resolution #1: I will recognize the Lord as my provider.

The writer cries out for the Lord to feed him with the food that he needed. Throughout the Bible we see God identified as the Great provider. In Genesis 22:14 He is called Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who provides. The psalmist pictures creatures in the animal kingdom as waiting on God to provide food for them (Ps. 104:25-29). He also provides nourishment for the earth so that everything in it might flourish (Ps. 104: 10-14).

Resolution #2: I will trust the Lord to give me exactly what I need.

Agur said the Lord will give us convenient food. The word convenient comes from the Hebrew word *khoke* and it means “*necessary*.” The Lord knows what He wants us to do personally, family-wise, socially educationally, in the area of employment, etc. Knowing this, He will give us exactly what we need to carry out these tasks.

Resolution #3: I will be content with what the Lord gives me.

Agur was looking for a happy medium between riches and poverty. He accepted the fact that God knew exactly what he needed when he said, “...feed me with food convenient for me.” He knew whatever God gave him, he would be content with it.