

(continued from the front)

and society has changed, the things we need to “just get by” have increased as well. Today, a cell phone has become essential for communicating effectively and conducting daily business. A vehicle is also considered a necessity of everyday life, and we think it unusual when someone does not own a car and must depend on public transportation.

Now, returning to our original question, does the Lord really expect us to be satisfied with only food and clothing and live in destitution, or else be considered wickedly rich? The apostle Paul said he had learned to be content in whatever situation he found himself. He knew how to live humbly and how to prosper (Philippians 4:11–12). In either circumstance, he could still be pleasing to God as long as he maintained the proper attitude.

The Lord wants us to be satisfied with the blessings we have received and not become distracted by the pursuit of the finer things in life. When Satan tempted Jesus, he appealed not only to the basic necessity of food but also to the desire for more (Matthew 4:1–11). We must always remember that Satan would rather see us spend more than \$1,000 on a new iPhone while putting only a few dollars in the offering plate. He wants us to crave the newest and finest car, expensive clothing, and endless entertainment while the needy in our community go hungry. The old adversary wants us to become so distracted by our “new toys” that Sunday becomes a play day instead of the Lord’s Day.

In an effort to satisfy our discontentment, we can become both sinful and neglectful. Let us never forget that our life’s worth is not measured by the things we possess (Luke 12:15) and that “godliness with contentment” is the greatest gain of all (1 Timothy 6:6).

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## The Devil Wants You to Have It



When it comes to being content with what we have in life, the Bible says, “And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content” (1 Timothy 6:8).

But let’s be honest. Is that even possible in the modern age in which we live? Should the 770,000 homeless people in our country be content with their circumstances as long as they have something to eat and something to wear? What is God trying to teach us here?

There is no doubt that the number of things we consider necessities has grown dramatically over the past 100 years. As technology has advanced

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