

6. CHRIST TEACHES THE SOUL WHOM HE BRINGS INTO THIS SCHOOL IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR OWN HEARTS.

You must learn this or you will never learn contentment. You must learn to know your own hearts well, to be good students of your own hearts.

... this will help you to contentment in three ways:

A. By studying your heart you will come soon to discover wherein your discontent lies. ⁴

¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. **Matthew 15:18–19** (ESV)

³⁴ You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. **Matthew 12:34–35** (ESV)

What did Jesus say shows the sinful nature of a person's heart?

B. This knowledge of our hearts will help us to contentment, because by it we shall come to know what best suits our condition. ⁵

¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. **Hebrews 4:12–13** (ESV)

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! **Psalms 139:23–24** (ESV)

How can a knowledge of a sinful heart lead a person to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?

C. By knowing their own hearts they know what they are able to manage, and by this means they come to be content.

Perhaps the Lord takes away many comforts from them that they had before, or denies them some things that they hoped to have got. Now by knowing their hearts they know that they were not able to manage such wealth, and they were not able to manage such prosperity. God saw it, and, a poor soul

⁴ Jeremiah Burroughs. *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment* (pp. 101-102). Monergism Books. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Jeremiah Burroughs. *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment* (p. 103). Monergism Books. Kindle Edition.

says, 'I am in some measure convinced by looking into my own heart that I was not able to manage such a condition.'⁶

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **Romans 12:3** (ESV)

⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. **1 Corinthians 10:9–12** (ESV)

¹⁷ Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. **Romans 11:19–20** (ESV)

Have you ever thanked God for bringing great disappointment into your life? Why or why not?

7. THE SEVENTH LESSON BY WHICH CHRIST TEACHES CONTENTMENT IS the burden of a prosperous outward condition.

One who comes into Christ's school to be instructed in this art never attains to any great skill in it until he comes to understand the burden that is in a prosperous condition.⁷

- There is a burden of trouble. A rose has its prickles, and the Scripture says that he that will be rich pierceth himself through with many sorrows (1 Timothy 6:10).
- There is a burden of danger in it. Men in a prosperous position are in a great deal of danger.
- In a prosperous condition there is the burden of duty. You look only at the sweetness and comfort, the honor and respect that they have who are in a prosperous position, but you must consider the duty that they owe to God.
- The last is the burden of account in a prosperous condition. Those who enjoy great wealth and a prosperous condition have a great account to give to God.

⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. **1 Timothy 6:9–10** (ESV)

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. **1 Timothy 6:17–19** (ESV)

Have you ever prayed, "Lord, please don't make my life filled with money or possession because I know they would ruin my devotion to you."? Would you like to make that prayer now? Why or why not?

⁶ Jeremiah Burroughs. The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment (p. 104). Monergism Books. Kindle Edition.

⁷ Jeremiah Burroughs. The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment (p. 105). Monergism Books. Kindle Edition.