

CA4. Being Content with Having the Essentials for Living.

We are to be content with having the essentials for living.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Philippians 4:11-13

Not that I am saying this to call attention to any need of mine; since, as far as I am concerned, I have learned to be content regardless of circumstances. I know what it is to be in want, and I know what it is to have more than enough- in everything and in every way I have learned the secret of being full and being hungry, of having abundance and being in need. I can do all things through him who gives me power.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Now true religion does bring great riches, but only to those who are content with what they have. For we have brought nothing into the world; and we can take nothing out of it; so if we have food and clothing, we will be satisfied with these.

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money; and be satisfied with what you have; for God himself has said, "I will never fail you or abandon you.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 6:25-34

Luke 3:14, 12:15

1 Corinthians 7:24

2 Corinthians 11:23-28, 12:10

James 2:5

Related New Testament Mitzvot

AA08 Guarding Ourselves Against Greed

CA06 Not Setting a Goal of Being Rich

CA07 Not Being a Lover of Money

CA08 Not Taking Pride in Being Rich

CA09 Not Relying on Riches

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Deuteronomy 10:18

He secures justice for the orphan and the widow; he loves the foreigner, giving him food and clothing.

Proverbs 16:8

Better a little with righteousness than a huge income with injustice.

Proverbs 19:23

The fear of ADONAI leads to life; one who has it is satisfied and rests untouched by evil.

Proverbs 28:6

Better to be poor and live an honest life than be crooked in one's ways, though rich.

Proverbs 30:8

.. keep falsehood and futility far from me, and give me neither poverty nor wealth. Yes, provide just the food I need today;

Ecclesiastes 3:13

Still, the fact that everyone can eat and drink and enjoy the good that results from all his work, is a gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 6:9

Better what the eyes can see than meandering desire. Yet this too is pointless and feeding on wind.

Comment

For his own purposes, God allows some of us to have more in the way of worldly possessions and comforts than others, but commands us to be content with what we have, even the bare essentials for living such as food, clothing, and shelter. As the result of evil in the world some do not have even those, and that is why we are commanded to give *tzedakah* – i.e., provide and care for orphans and widows (*Mitzvah* #BB3), support our brother who is in need (*Mitzvah* #BB11) and be charitable and generous to our neighbor (*Mitzvah* #BB1).

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

B01 Lending Money without Interest to Our Poor Brother

B02 Returning a Needed Pledged Item

B04 Giving Financial Help to Persons in Need

B05 Setting Aside Part of Our Increase for the Poor

B06 Gleanings and Part of Life-Sustaining Commodities Left for the Poor & Disadvantaged