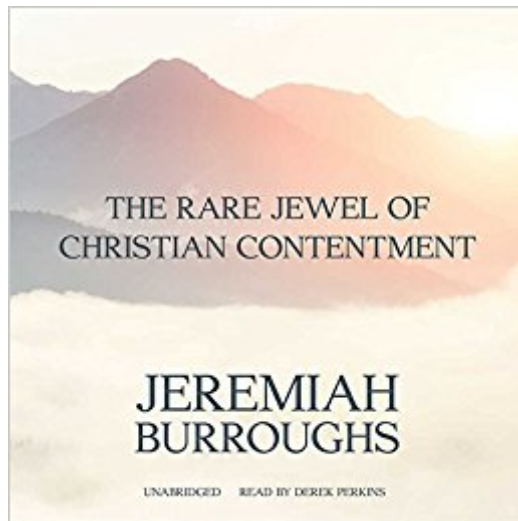




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# **The Rare Jewel Of Christian Contentment**



## Synopsis

The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment by Jeremiah Burroughs is classic work featuring clear and simple instructions on how to be content as a Christian. Burroughs will teach you that contentment lies in subtraction, not addition; that the workings of Christianity are nothing like what you thought them to be; and that once you have learned the way from Christ's word, you will be able to attain contentment as you never before imagined.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'J. I. Packer says that the Puritans are the theological and devotional Redwoods of the western world.<sup>1</sup> My own experience is that no one comes close to the skill they have in taking the razor-like scalpel of Scripture, and lancing the boils of my corruption, cutting out the cancers of my God-belittling habits of mind, and amputating the limbs of my disobedience. They are simply in a class by themselves.' --John Piper --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

Jeremiah Burroughs (1600-1646) harmoniously combined in his own person qualities that might be considered incompatible: a fervent zeal for doctrinal purity and worship and a peaceable spirit which longed and labored for Christian unity. It is said that his heart was broken by the divisions among the Puritan reformers in the 1640s and that this contributed to his premature death at age forty-six.

This book is a "rare jewel" as it is the original 1651 printing. However to truly read it, the paperback

edition is far better though it has many spelling errors, only some of which are in the original. Yet, the lessons on describing and gaining true contentment with godliness are priceless as Burroughs was brilliant in using finely tuned reasoning and good illustrations to convey truths that only the spiritual mind can adequately grasp. The huge benefit is indeed a sense of God's peace being applied to one's day to day living. Having the original printing allows one to compare with the expressions and even the spellings in the paperback edition and conveys the feeling of doing the raw research personally!

I really wanted to like this book. The description sounds fabulous and is on an area where I really wanted to do more work. The author's style initially seemed really clear and he made some really good points. Unfortunately, as I got into it, he seemed to get a bit "lost in the weeds." Some of his points (e.g. on the benefits of certain promises of God) were so qualified it became difficult to tell what he was actually trying to convey beyond "well, they just make you feel warm and fuzzy." (Maybe I'm being unfair to his points but I really did have a hard time following what his actual point was). As much as I wanted to, I couldn't finish this book. Maybe the parts I hadn't gotten to were better but it was still disappointing overall.

We live in a day where ongoing advancements in technology have made life easier and more convenient in many ways, than it was in previous centuries. One might think that the need for a book ('The' classic on the doctrine of Christian Contentment) would be less necessary than when this book was first published in the mid 17th century. We are bombarded in the visual media and the print media with a vast array of things, which these vehicles of communication, insist that we cannot be happy without. Thus the need for sound teaching on this doctrine is greater than when the book was first written. Pastor Burroughs believed that the heart of practical divinity is, by God's grace, learning to be content in whatever condition we find ourselves. To grow in the grace of contentment is not just to accept or submit to the Lord's dealings with us but: "contentment is taking pleasure in God's disposal... Well, my condition and afflictions are so and so, and very grievous and sore; yet through God's mercy, I am in a good condition, and the hand of God is good upon me notwithstanding." - A believer can be comforted in trial and affliction (not because the affliction in itself is pleasant, it is often grievous in itself) but because, if one is in Christ (you can be confident) that God's hand is in the affliction and he will accomplish good though it (blessing will come to you from it, though you may not perceive that while afflicted, but you can through the eye of faith, even in the midst of the deepest trial). Burroughs writes "Before your conversion ... you were contented with the world without

grace...why cannot you now be contented with grace and spiritual things without the world."-If you have been saved by grace,you have the much greater treasure.A Christian has reason to be more content than any who have only the world(no matter how much of the world they have).Do not the Scriptures teach this in many places? 'For what is a man profited,if he shall gain the whole world,and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?'(Matthew 16:26).This is a book that you can go to for help,time and time again,when you sense discontent rising up in your heart.Here is a list of some other helpful books and articles on Christian Contentment:Thomas Watson's 'The Art Of Divine Contentment',A.W.Pink's book Comfort For Christians has a chapter on contentment,The Christian's Reasonable Service vol.3 Wilhelmus A.Brakel has a section on this doctrine and 'The Free Grace Broadcaster Issue #213'(published quarterly by Chapel Library in Pensacola Florida-some issues are also available on kindle)has articles on this important teaching by Jonathan Edwards,J.C.Ryle,Thomas Boston,Thomas Jacombe,William Plummer,Octavius Winslow... .The Rare Jewel..by J.Burroughs remains the fullest treatment and most important book ever published on this doctrine.

The Puritan Jeremiah Burroughs presents a very readable discourse on a much-needed topic of contentment. As applicable today as it was for his seventeenth century audience. I was able to gain much from this book that fed my soul.This is a series of sermons that are transcribed into book form that Burroughs preached to his congregation. There are a very few, minor typos that are easily overlooked and decipherable. Highly recommended on a topic not much addressed in the twenty-first century church.

The Puritan Paperbacks series is a great gift to many Christians who want to access the riches of Puritan writing. One of the greatest gifts of this set is Jeremiah Burroughs' The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment. Coming in at 228 pages, this small paperback is packed with solid content at a good price. There will be many moments of agreement for most Christians, much underlining or highlighting, many notes. For contentment (or lack thereof) is a universal concern and a struggle for many people. Burroughs' words, though centuries old, ring with biblical force down to our day, bringing the wisdom of a man who walked with God in the trenches of life to our eyes and minds.

This book will help Christians to learn how to live within their means. The solution for happiness is not to get more "things," it is to subtract from your desires. Instead of trying to figure out how you can buy more stuff, the author shows how "subtraction is better than addition." Today, advertisers

are constantly trying to make you discontented with what you have, so that you will buy the "latest and greatest" gadget. This book will help you get the right perspective, so you are not always going into debt to have more things. A must-have book.

This book helps one to see your heart is full of Christian grace. The world is driven by consumerism and yet when do we say that "it is enough, I am content in the salvation of God through Christ. We must learn contentment in the many spheres of life and this takes work and practice, to rid your life of the worldliness that so dominates Western culture, to set your mind on things above, while being a good steward of what you have been entrusted with. Good one to read!

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