

Text: Hebrews 13:5.

Sam Dobbratz confirmation.

**April 28, 2019.**

God's love is always yours. Amen.

Sam, you chose a really, really cool verse. Samantha and Anthony, you chose cool verses too. But it was a treasure to study every word in this verse. It starts with a proverb- like saying, "Keep your lives free from the love of money." Actually, in the original language that whole phrase is only three words, and one of those words is, "the." Without love of money, the way of life." Think about that. Your whole way of thinking. Your whole way of life. It's to be a way of thinking without money love. It's to be a way of life that isn't focused on money. That's weird. That's hard. That's unusual.

Maybe right now that doesn't seem so difficult. I'm just a kid and I don't have much money. How could I love it? But what if one of your books sells? What if your art gets really popular? What about when you turn 15 or 16 and can get your first real job? Now it's different! If I could just get a job, then I'd have so much money. If I could just get a better job, then I'd have enough money. And notice by better job we always mean more money, not more fulfillment, or more helping people or more use of the talents God has given me. A better job means more money. If I could only make it through college without any debt. If I just buy that first house. If I could just get a new car. If I could just pay for my kid's college. If I could just have enough to retire. And you realize the, "If I could just," way of life is never enough.

God has a better plan for us and a better plan for you, Sam. That's why you chose this verse. The answer is not more things. The answer is more trust. More trust in a God who gave us what we needed: a Savior, a Savior who gave us perfection, a holy standing with God, a Savior who met our greatest need for holiness with his holiness and canceled our biggest debt, our sin. Paid in full! Forever! Won't it be cool to hold up that statement to God when you get to heaven and say, "God, you have to let me in. I have this final statement, signed in Jesus' own blood! My debt is paid in full!"

Jesus+nothing= everything. When you have Jesus and his love, you have all you need. When you have Jesus and his forgiveness, you don't lack anything. When you have God and his presence, you can be content. You can relish what you have, not resent what you have missing. Contentment is not getting what you want, it's wanting what you've got.

And we have God's presence. We have his promise. Again, each word here was so cool, so awesome, thanks for giving me the chance to study it. God himself said this. Not a person. God himself. And what he has said still stands, the authority continues, this promise is good and true for all time! Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you. Actually, the original language uses five negatives. I will never, ever, ever, ever, ever forsake you. Ever! The original language uses the strongest possible negative. Twice! This just isn't possible. For God to leave you. It just can't ever happen. That God will forsake you. There is no possible way, none at all, none of any kind, no way, no how, not now, not ever. God will never leave you, Sam. God will never, ever forsake you.

What's ironic about these words, is they remind us of some words Jesus spoke from the cross. Jesus said, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" God forsook his own Son, for a short time, so God will never forsake you, for a long time, all eternity. God sent his own Son to hell, so God will bring all his children to heaven. What else do you need? What else could you want? Your way of thinking, your way of life, can be free from money love, because God himself has said and it still stands, "Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you." Sam, you have God's promise. That's all you need. Amen.