



Main Passage: 1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19

Theological Theme

God has given guidance for how His people should steward the blessings we have been given, and there is contentment and reward when we follow His plans.

Introduction

- ? How have you seen that money does not automatically equal happiness or contentment?
- ? Why are we still tempted by this even when experience and observation tell us otherwise?

1. Gain of Godliness (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

Paul wrote to Timothy about the need for believers to pursue godliness. He knew the temptations of the world and the vulnerability of people to believe gaining things according to the world's standards was the best way. Timothy's culture focused on gaining material possessions and wealth to find happiness. A self-centered mindset prevailed. Not much has changed over the centuries. Paul's words to Timothy are easily applicable to our lives.

- ? How does our world push people toward the pursuit of material wealth? How does our society put pressure on people to "keep up" in this way?
- ? How have you seen the need to accumulate possessions and wealth be a hindrance to finding contentment?
- ? Application: What would it look like for you to strive for godliness with contentment?

2. Dangers of Greediness (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

Along with the encouragement to pursue godliness, Paul pointed out the dangers of doing the opposite. Note that he stated the desire for riches is harmful and dangerous, not the riches themselves. The amount of money you have or do not have does not determine your godliness, but your desires guide the state of your heart and life. Both those without much material possessions and those with abundance struggle with the desire to gather riches over the desire to be humble, trust the Lord, and pursue contentment.

- ? When have you seen the desire for riches cause someone to fall into a trap that is difficult to escape, or was there a time you've experienced this yourself?
- ? How can people store up treasures in heaven as opposed to earth?
- ? Application: How have you been guilty of having the wrong priorities with money? What will you do to change?

3. Blessings of Generosity (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

In these verses, Paul gave further instructions about how to handle wealth and material possessions. He specifically addressed those who are rich in this world and made it clear if they want to be rich in eternity, they must be intentional about how they steward what they have been given in the present. These are words for us today. We have all been called to steward our resources well, no matter how much or little we have.

- ❓ How have you seen the danger of trusting in material possessions as the ultimate source of happiness and contentment?
- ❓ How might you use earthly resources to make a kingdom impact?
- ❓ Application: How does this study challenge you to change your attitude and perspective on material possessions?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).