
FOR RICHER OR POORER

1 Timothy 6:3-21

SIMPLIFYING THE PASSAGE:

1 Timothy 6:3-21

Godliness and contentment are the two ingredients for great gain.

5 PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY:

- ❶ The **Gospel** isn't a product that fixes **life's** problems.
1 Timothy 6:3-5
- ❷ It's all about our **desires**, not our **possessions**.
1 Timothy 6:6-10, Philippians 4:10-13, Hebrews 13:5-6, Mark 4:19
- ❸ Remember the location of our true **home** and **riches**.
1 Timothy 6:11-12, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Psalm 62:10, Deuteronomy 8:13-14, Psalm 49:10-20
- ❹ We can't take it **with us**, but we can **send it ahead**.
1 Timothy 6:17-19, Ephesians 1:18, Matthew 6:20 & 19:21, Luke 12:33
- ❺ It is a daily **fight** under a **generous** General.
1 Timothy 6:10 & 17, 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

TAKING IT HOME:

1 Timothy 6:17-19

- ▶ Is your **identity** found in what you have, or don't have?
- ▶ Is your **security** found in what you have, or don't have?
- ▶ How do you use what you have **for the Kingdom**?

Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 24, 2006

QUICK REVIEW: Was there one point from this week's sermon that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or confused you more than the others?

MY STORY

1. What's your favorite theme park and what part of it do you like the best?

2. We live in a society where most people enjoy many material possessions. What would be a non-essential material possession that would be easy for you to give up? Name one that would be more challenging to give up besides your residence or vehicle.

3. Can you think of any ways people have positively invested in your life that they may or may not know?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Paul, the writer of 1 Timothy, understands the tension we experience between balancing our pursuit of being rich in good deeds versus rich in material possessions. That's why he writes "Fight the good fight of the faith." (1 Timothy 6:12) Part of the dilemma is that our pursuit of financial gain tells us the lie that its return is more rewarding than the pursuit of God and making an eternal investment. What do the following verses tell you that you gain in the pursuit of God that no material possession will give you?

Psalm 112:1-9

Praise the Lord.

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,
who finds great delight in his commands.

[2] His children will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

[3] Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.

[4] Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,
for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.

[5] Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely,

who conducts his affairs with justice.
[6] Surely he will never be shaken;
a righteous man will be remembered forever.
[7] He will have no fear of bad news;
his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
[8] His heart is secure, he will have no fear;
in the end he will look in triumph on his foes.
[9] He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor,
his righteousness endures forever;
his horn will be lifted high in honor. [NIV]

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled. [NIV]

2. Throughout our study of 1 Timothy we have talked about having personal significance and significance in the lives of those we know. As you go back and re-read 1 Timothy 6:11, look at the definitions below and write down an example of how it might look when it's lived out in the workplace.

1 Timothy 6:11

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. [NIV]

]"Righteousness" means personal integrity and godly character lived out.

"Faith" might better be translated faithfulness. It has well been said that the greatest ability is dependability.

"Love" is the agape love that sacrifices for the sake of others. It seeks to give, not to gain.

"Endurance" carries the idea of sticking with it when the going is tough. It is not a complacency that waits, but a courage that continues in hard places.

"Gentleness" in this context might be seen as "power under control."

- Definitions adapted from the Bible Exposition Dictionary

How might living them out make an impact on others?

Is there one that challenges you more than the others?

3. We saw this weekend that God wants us to develop a mindset of generosity. How do we see generosity expressed specifically by King David in 2 Samuel 9?

2 Samuel 9:1-13

David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

[2] Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They called him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

"Your servant," he replied.

[3] The king asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?" Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet."

[4] "Where is he?" the king asked.

Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar."

[5] So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

[6] When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, "Mephibosheth!"

"Your servant," he replied.

[7] "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."

[8] Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

[9] Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. [10] You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

[11] Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.

[12] Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. [13] And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table, and he was crippled in both feet. [NIV]

How is Mephibosheth's situation and David's treatment of him similar to God's treatment of us?

How might this story expand our generosity?

TAKING IT HOME

What from this week's teaching and/or study helped you the most for developing godliness, contentment or generosity?

