

GREAT GAIN = GODLINESS AND CONTENTMENT.

1 Timothy 6:3-10

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain,⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

The road to contentment:

- Pride causes us to **twist** the truth to fit our **agenda** – 6:3-5
If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.
- Godliness + contentment = great **gain** – 6:6 *But godliness with contentment is great gain,*
 - Godliness is a living **relationship** with the living God. If God is the greatest reality in the universe then everything else in my life hinges on my relationship with God.
 - Godliness reminds us of our dependence on God – 6:7 *for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.*

Q: What does contentment look like?

A: 6:8 *But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.*

- Godliness with contentment protects us from the **self-harm** of desiring to be rich – 6:9-10 *But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

Ephesians 5:3

“But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.”

Colossians 3:5

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Proverbs 23:4-5

“Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.⁵ When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.”

70% of Rich Families Lose Their Wealth by the Second Generation, by Chris Taylors, “Indeed, 70% of wealthy families lose their wealth by the second generation, and a stunning 90% by the third, according to the Williams Group wealth consultancy... It takes the average recipient of an inheritance 19 days until they buy a new car.”¹

Action points

- Fight the desire to be rich and the fear of “What If’s” with Gospel-driven **generosity**.
- Pursue God and trust Him to provide what you need – 6:11 *But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.*

Thomas a Kempis – “If you have wealth, do not glory in it, nor in your powerful friends. Rather glory in God who gives all things and who, above all, desires to give you Himself.”

- Set your hope on the **Giver**, not the gift – 6:17 *As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.*

Psalms 119:36

Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!

Hebrews 13:5-6

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”⁶ So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

- Be rich in **servicing** people for the glory of God – 6:18b *...to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.*

¹ <http://time.com/money/3925308/rich-families-lose-wealth/>