

Q.9 What might Paul mean in vs. 5 when he ironically states that godliness is gain (even *great gain* vs. 6)? What 'gain' is in view?

Contentment = Christ-sufficiency

Paul is not speaking of destitute people when he refers to the 'poor' (see vs. 8). He states a fact about life and death that is often obscured (vs. 7), which is reflected in Hebrew wisdom in the book of Job (Jb. 1:21). God provides us richly with everything for our enjoyment (vs. 17) during our lives. But temptations abound (vs. 9) and destruction results often, and life is wasted (Mk. 8:36). Study Paul's comparisons:

Category Vss. 7-10, 17-19	Virtue or Folly
Poor/Contented	
Poor/Covetous	
Rich/Contented	
Rich/Covetous	

Q.10 READ Luke 12:16-21. What does the parable teach? What tensions are there in applying these teachings to today's context?

Q.11 For Paul, the problem is not money, but the 'love of money' (vs.10). Note that he says it (the love of money) is 'a' root of 'all kinds' of evil (plural). Note the strategies and equipment Paul recommends to Timothy in vs. 11. What practical advice would you add?



Small Group Notes

the first letter to timothy

Lessons on Life in the Church #7 Money, Money, Money

Study No.7

1 Tim 6:10

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."
(NIV)

READ 1 Timothy 6:3-21 & 5:17-25

Warm Up Exercise

Q.1 Hugh Evans, former director of Oaktree Foundation and advocate for people trapped in poverty has said recently that "Global Poverty is the new 'slavery'." How would you respond to this statement?

Q.2 Ray Martin, former presenter on TV's 'A Current Affair' was indignant when some time ago a reporter from another network was discovered going through his rubbish bins to find some 'dirt' on him. What would you fear most if someone went through your trash?

Q.3 What tempts you most when you have a large amount of cash in your pocket?



Recap

Chapter 5 dealt with directions to young Timothy on how to adjust his behaviour to show respect to people of different ages and situations in life. We chose to exclude some verses regarding elder/teachers at Ephesus and to include those in our thoughts along with chapter 6. The Apostle Paul returns to the matter of false teachers and erring elders. His teaching here on the love of money has timeless wisdom to bestow.



Study the Text– 1 Timothy 6:3-21

Paul's main focus is false teachers. In 1:3-7 we learned that they distort the place of God's Law, in 4:1-5 we saw that their rules denied the goodness of creation, and now we learn of false motivations and divisive tactics associated with them (6:3-5). The opportunity thus arises for Paul to teach about the dangers of covetousness and the goal of contentment (7-10), and wealth and generosity (17-19). Christian discipleship and material wealth are tricky topics. Where elders err in these things and other ways, Paul has given instructions (5:17-25) on how the church should respond.



Q.4 List the words in this chapter that speak of Paul's standards for 'teachers' regarding Christian belief: (e.g. 'sound instruction' vss. 1, 3b)

6:3-5 Doctrine, Division, Dollars

Paul coins a word *heterodidaskaleo* in vs. 3 to describe the false teaching he wanted to rid the church of. *Hetero* indicates something 'other' or 'different'; in this case deviating from the apostles' teaching which he considers to be 'wholesome' or sound instruction.

The teaching that is sound is:

1. *of our Lord Jesus Christ* (vs. 3b) ie. in accord with Christ's teaching
2. *that which accords with godliness* (vs. 3b, see also Titus 1:1)

Q.5 According to vs. 4 the false teacher causes division in the church. What are the destructive results in human relationships? Put these in your own words...

Paul exposes the motivation of some false teachers in vs.5, namely, avarice; which means to covet. The tenth commandment comes into view.

EXERCISE

Study the following texts and consider how the love of money was an issue to be addressed in the 1st Century AD.

- Acts 19:23-35
- Ephesians 5:3
- 2 Corinthians 2:17
- Acts 20:33
- 1 Thessalonians 2:5

Q.6 What examples can you think of where the Gospel has been peddled for financial gain and discredited as a result?

- In the Middle Ages
- In the 20th Century

Q.7 How should money and ministry be rightly regarded according to 5:17-18?

Q.8 Looking back over vss. 3-5 what three questions might we ask to diagnose whether teaching is false or sound?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

6:6-10; 17-19 Godliness and Contentment

The Stoics of Paul's day set a goal for *autarkeia*, contentment: a self-sufficiency that is independent of circumstances. In a similar manner, Christian contentment is not dependent on external circumstances, however, one cannot find it in oneself.

EXERCISE

Look at the following passages on being content and find the common ingredients:

- Philippians 4:12,13;
- Hebrews 13:5-6;
- Matthew 6