

‘What is Great Wealth?’

1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19

I. A reminder to those who aren't rich 6:6-8

A. Notice the word ‘godliness’. He links it with contentment and gives us a basic plan that leads to happiness. Godliness plus contentment equals great gain. God wants us to see it that way. Notice that which makes up great wealth is not related to money. It's an attitude of satisfaction, this inner peace that God gives plus a day by day real walk with God. Phil. 4:11-13

B. Contentment is something we learn. *How do we learn it?*

First, vs. 7- Remember eternity, we entered this life with _____ and we shall leave the same way.

Also, it's hard to be content if you're always looking in your rear view mirror. Some people keep looking at what's behind them, the things they used to do, the people they used to know. Memories are precious but we have to keep looking ahead, at what's coming.

Second, vs. 8, we see contentment can come when we are willing to embrace life's simple essentials. As one wise ancient Greek man said: *‘To whom little is not enough, then nothing will be enough.’*

II. A warning to those who want to get rich 6:9,10

A. This is a person who has a strong determination, even possessed by the desire to be rich. They'll do anything or almost anything to get rich. The Bible gives these people a strong warning.

B. It's a good thing to want to provide well for your family. But this is a person who is driven beyond normal, just to get rich. Their goal is money, lots of it. They tend to fall for all kinds of ‘get rich quick’ schemes.

C. *What can loving money lead to?*

1. It becomes easy to forget God, Prov. 30:8,9.
2. It becomes easy to stop trusting God.
3. It's easy to become deceived, Mk. 4:19.
4. It can lead to compromising God's word.
5. It can lead to basing your life on an unstable foundation.
6. It can become easy to be ungrateful.
7. Money can make one very prideful, ‘look at what I've got.’
8. It becomes easy to rob God. Malachi
9. It becomes easy to rob others. 1 Jn. 3:17.

D. The big issue here with money is your _____ towards it. If you lost it all, could you still be content? The right attitude is to understand that all money is God's money and since I am His steward, His trustee, I should honor God with all that He has entrusted to me.

III. Instruction to those who are rich 6:17-19

A. If you worked hard, were honest in your dealings, and God blessed you with _____, you have nothing to be ashamed about. Tons of ministries around the world would collapse if it were not for the generous contributions of those with money. But with great blessing, comes great responsibility.

What are some of the Bible's instructions for those with money? (and we all have some)

1. **Don't become proud.** Don't become high-minded, snobbish. Isa. 51:1
2. **Don't trust in your money for your security.** We all know how quickly it can disappear.
3. **Become a generous person.** 6:18,19 Let generosity be your trademark. Invest for eternity.

So, to wrap up, if you struggle to make ends meet, remember, godliness with contentment equals great wealth. To those who think making lots of money is the goal of life, watch out, it'll just be a matter of time before you will find yourself ensnared and miserable, losing the very things that make life worth living.

Let Jesus be the master of your money, in fact, let Jesus be your real treasure!