



## 1 Timothy 6:6-10

### "The Love of Money"

#### START HERE

This year's Super Bowl between the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers brought millions of viewers. Through the years, a lot of Super Bowl viewers admit that watching the famous commercials has sometimes been more entertaining than the game itself.

Football has been a part of America's pastime and entertainment. As the sport's popularity has risen, so have the prices for advertisements on the most watched event annually. Although TV ratings have dropped steadily since the peak in 2015, the Super Bowl still averages close to 100 million (Nielsen ratings). That was 44 million more viewers than the No. 2 show.

In 2020, per Bloomberg, the Fox network benefited from a record-setting price of \$5.6 million for a **30-second ad spot**. Fox sold 77 national spots in addition to the group of local commercials.

Commercials have always been targeted to move or persuade people to purchase what they are selling. It must invoke the feeling that what we have is not enough, we should want more. It's a challenge to our personal contentment.

*"Giving is the only  
antidote to materialism."*

*-Randy Alcorn*

*"The Bible teaches that  
tithing is the spiritual  
discipline of every  
Christian giving the first  
10% of his or her  
income to God."*

*-Pastor Glynn*

#### ASK

***Have you ever wanted to buy something, or actually bought something, believing that if you just had that you'd be content? How did that work out for you?***

***How do you define "contentment"? In your own experiences, what have you discovered to be the key to contentment?***

***In what circumstances do you most typically struggle to be content? Why? Are there any recurring themes for you?***

Our society pushes material wealth and greed as the source of contentment. However, a person living for material wealth is headed down a dangerous path. James emphasized the importance of contentment from God and freedom from materialism and greed.

#### READ

## 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. <sup>8</sup>If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

## REVIEW

### Context/Commentary/Background

#### THE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY

**6:6.** Picking up on the words “godliness” and “gain,” Paul shifted their meaning in a characteristically Pauline fashion (cf. 1 Cor. 2:5–6 for a similar shift) from the erroneous to the truthful. Godliness does not *give* financial gain (1 Tim. 6:5); it itself *is* gain when accompanied with contentment. *Autarkeias* literally means “self-sufficiency.” Yet the sufficiency of oneself is due to the sufficiency of God (cf. 2 Cor. 9:8; Phil. 4:11, 13 for other uses of the same word). Godliness combined with that inner God-given sufficiency which does not depend on material circumstances (the opposite of the false teachers’ greed) is indeed of great gain.

**6:7–8.** Paul supported his point with a common Jewish and Christian idea (cf. Job 1:21; Ecc. 5:15; Luke 12:16–21) about the complete transiency of material things. They should freely be used and enjoyed to the glory of God if one has them (cf. 1 Tim. 4:3–4; 6:17), but in no way do they contribute to godliness. Christians do have basic material needs for food and clothing, of course, like everyone else; but when these are met a godly Christian can be satisfied (cf. Heb. 13:5–6). Paul knew whereof he spoke (Phil. 4:10–13).

**6:9–10.** Paul contrasted the proper attitude of contentment with its opposites: The craving to get rich and the love of money, two sides of the same coin. The history of the human race, and perhaps especially that of modern Western societies, cries out in support of Paul’s point. The grasping after riches leads to: (1) temptation, (2) a trap, and (3) many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. Though not an end in itself, greed is actually a root of all kinds of evil. It is a crucial chink through which other vices gain access. To illustrate his point Paul referred indirectly to some people, undoubtedly known to Timothy, who had fallen into the trap Paul was discussing. Eager for money, they wandered from the faith. This may mean that they had fallen into heretical teaching (cf. 2 Tim. 2:17–18) or simply that their spiritual fruitfulness had been

choked off (cf. Luke 8:14) by their concern for riches. In either case, they had suffered for it, causing themselves to be pierced ... with many griefs (lit., “pains”).<sup>1</sup>

## THE FAITHLIFE STUDY BIBLE NOTES

**6:6 contentment** The Greek word used here, *autarkeia*, refers to satisfaction with one’s circumstances. Stoic philosophers valued contentment because it indicated self-sufficiency. The Apostle Paul, however, values contentment because it indicates Christ’s sufficiency (see Phil 4:11, 13).

**6:7 neither can we bring anything** Paul cautions the believers in Ephesus against prioritizing material wealth over godliness (see 1 Tim 6:17; compare Job 1:21).

**6:9 ruin and destruction** This is not a pronouncement of judgment on all wealthy people. Paul’s point is that the pursuit of riches is spiritually hazardous and does not contribute to contentment and godliness (compare 1 Tim 6:6–7). Paul warns the rich about the dangers of self-sufficiency (vv. 17–19). The Bible presents God as the giver of riches (Eccl 5:19); while riches cannot satisfy (Eccl 5:10; Luke 12:18), they can provide opportunity for good works (Luke 12:33).

**6:10 the love of money** Love of money (not money itself) is the root of all kinds of evil. Paul here describes a deep desire and commitment to possess money over and against loyalty and love for God. Like the young widows who put their desire to remarry before Christ (see 1 Tim 5:11 and note), those who love money allow their allegiance to Christ to be compromised because of selfish desires. Jesus also spoke on the idolatrous pursuit of riches (Matt 6:24).<sup>2</sup>

## Content

**Have a volunteer read James 5:1-6.**

*How does James describe rich people?*

*What happens to people if they obsess over greed and materialism?*

*Why do you think James had such harsh words for the material person?*

James offered serious warning against those who long for riches and material goods. James continued his push for helping others and becoming humble as he equated materialism with

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<sup>1</sup> A. Duane Litfin, “1 Timothy.” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 746.

<sup>2</sup> John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), 1 Ti 6:6–10.

fattening the heart for the day of slaughter. Paul had the same message when he wrote to Timothy and the Philippians about greed and materialism.

**Have a volunteer read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and Philippians 4:11-13.**

*"You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead."*

*-Randy Alcorn*

*"God deserves our firsts."*

*-Pastor Glynn*

***What similarities do you see between these two passages of Scripture?***

One of the greatest challenges we face as we strive to be serious followers of Jesus is the struggle for contentment in a materialistic society. In order to understand true contentment, we must reject the notion that contentment has anything to do with accumulating material possessions. Contentment is a choice.

***Why do people believe material possessions will bring contentment?***

***How does Paul's view of contentment compare with the modern world's view of contentment?***

***Why does God want His children to be content? What is He trying to teach us?***

***When we struggle to be content, what are we saying about our view of God and our relationship with Him?***

Paul stated that he was content no matter what his circumstances. The word "contentment" Paul used in this passage is a term that describes an inner spirit of freedom and discipline, the ability to conquer circumstances and situations rather than be conquered by them. Through the trials and testing he endured, Paul learned that contentment is achievable in spite of poverty or prosperity.

*From Pastor Glynn- The more we have, the more that wealth becomes a curse than a blessing.*

- 1. The greater we have, the less we are being truly dependent on God. (James 1:17)*
- 2. The greater our wealth, the more time and energy it requires to manage it. (Luke 12:48)*

**Read Philippians 4:13 again.**

***What made Paul's contentment possible? What do you think that contentment looks like in real life?***

Because of his faith and trust in Christ, Paul was able to live triumphantly above changing circumstances. In order to find contentment in Christ, we must learn to trust God to meet our needs in the way He knows is best for us. As we see in 1 Timothy 6:6, godliness goes hand in hand with contentment. When we're focused on living God-honoring lives, our contentment is measured by what God is doing in us rather than what we have. To understand true contentment, we must reject the notion that it has anything to do with accumulating material possessions or earthly success.

***How does godliness relate to contentment? What are some ways we can strive for godliness?***

***How would you describe someone who has a Christlike attitude? What distinguishes that person from other people?***

***What do you think is the “great gain in godliness with contentment” (v. 6)?***

The word “godliness” suggests an attitude focused on God and doing what pleases Him. It depicts a reverence that recognizes that we live each moment before God. In other words, our attitude toward God results in actions that please Him. We could say that godliness is God-likeness. The more we are like God in our attitudes, actions, and ambitions, the more godly we become. And the more godly we become, the more contented we will be. Contentment isn't based on what we have; it's based on whose we are. Without a desire to be more and more like the One who created us, we won't experience contentment.

***Pastor Glynn's Main Points:***

- 1. Financial guardrails help us acknowledge our trust in God (v. 6-8)***
- 2. Financial generosity helps us avoid the trap of loving money (v9-10)***

## **REFLECT**

Help your Connect Group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

***What do you have to be grateful for? How can gratitude keep you from materialism and greed? How do Paul's words to Timothy and the Philippians help you apply this to your life?***

Think and reflect on Jesus' time on earth.

***How did He model contentment for us? What can we learn from Him?***

***What concrete steps can you take this week to escape the trap of materialism?***

***What do you see as the most common needs in our community—needs that the church could begin addressing? How might you create margin in your schedule or finances to be ready to help meet those needs?***

## RESPOND

TEACHERS- Share this information/challenge with your Connect Group...



On Sunday, March 1 the Mobberly family will celebrate its annual Prove The Tithe Sunday. Each Mobberly member and regular attender is asked to step out in faith and give a tithe (10%) of one pay period to MBC's Ministry Action Plan (MAP, or spending plan). If you are already tithing, stretch your faith as a giver by giving beyond 10%.

### MOBBERLY STATS:

Are you a giver? Are you a committed giver?

Mobberly family has 2703 families (households). (avg 2.76 people per household. Some single).

- 2024 family units gave the 8.5 million last year's budget.
- 1006 households, gave regularly (*at least once month*)

16% - 20% of families in East Texas live in **poverty (25,926 family of 4)** (via 2019 numbers)

**If all Mobberly 2703 households lived at poverty level and tithed (gave 10%) = \$7 mill.**

There are some in our church who live below poverty level, but most do not.

Let's take the **median household income in East Texas \$48,609.**

**If all 2703 Mobberly households tithed on the avg. household income = \$13,136,580**

Instead of an annual budget of 8.5 million, can you imagine 13.1 million? That's 4.6 million more!

The point of this exercise is not how much money can come in, but rather, **"Can you imagine what God could do through Mobberly with 4.6 million MORE dollars a year?"**

So, what can we do? If we tithed, think of the potential!