

Recap of 9/2/18 (1 Timothy 6:5-8)

1. One of the last characteristics of false teachers which Paul identifies is that they make a business of religion, commercializing it. They see ministry and teaching as a source of monetary gain. To them the purpose of “godliness” was material gain. One author put it this way: “In addition, the insidious doctrine was being taught that godliness will eventually result in material blessing.” (Wilkinson)
2. Paul says that godliness with contentment, not grasping for more and more, is the true gain (“great gain”).
3. Contentment is, not resignation to my lot in life, but recognition that what I am and what I have (my gifts, talents, and opportunities) are from God and that He is free to give me more or to take away what I have already because He is Sovereign. Thus, my peace of mind, my satisfaction with life are not dependent upon the “things” I have; the money I have, or the position I have.
4. Other’s definitions of contentment:
 - “Contentment is satisfaction with one’s lot in the will of God (Hebrews 13:5).” (Unger)
 - “Contentment means that we are willing to accept ourselves as God created us, with our gifts, talents, and opportunities. Contentment in regard to material things is an active, not passive, acceptance. Being content enables us to accept the responsibility that accompanies our calling and situation. The solution to [the tendency to compare ourselves with others] is to saturate our minds with God’s Word so that we recognize the negative results of covetousness and possessiveness.” (The Compact Guide to the Christian Life)
 - “Contentment comes when we escape the servitude of things, when we find our wealth in the love and fellowship of [others], and when we realize that our most precious possession is our friendship with God, made possible through Jesus Christ.” (Barclay)
5. Paul argues that we should be content because:
 - we came in this world with nothing and will leave this world the same way (vv. 6,7)
 - to have food, clothing and shelter is a great blessing which we often overlook (vs. 8)
 - the desire for monetary riches blinds us to the true riches in life (vs. 9)
 - the love of money leads to other evils and to ruin. (vs. 10)