

**1 Timothy**  
**E.) The Church and its ministry to the world**  
**1-2. 6:1-10 Serving while at work and in society**

**6:6-10**  
**“Who’s in your wallet?”**

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**I. Introduction**

In verse 5 Paul told Timothy that some teaches were trying to make *a profession off of religious profession*. They were in the business of religion, making a buck was what they really worshipped and they took advantage of the people. What motivated these folks was the same as Balaam, that Old Testament nemeses of Israel, who spelled prophet,...

P.R.O.F.I.T. Paul had already addressed the concept of providing for the teaching elder but this was a far cry from that. There are those today who are nothing more than “*religious racketeers*” out to take from the gullible and have amassed vast fortunes. Poor does not mean godly and rich ungodly; nor the other way around. There were many remarkably godly men in the Bible who were unbelievably rich, such as Abraham, David, and Solomon. The Psalmist in Psalm 62:10 warned this saying, “*If riches increase, do not set your heart on them.*” *In these five verses Paul reminds Timothy of four things about money and wealth with regards to what it can and cannot buy.*

- **Vs. 6 Money cannot buy contentment**
- **Vs. 7 Money cannot be taken with you**
- **Vs. 8 Money has limited value**
- **Vs. 9-10 Money can ruin your life**

## II. Vs. 6 Money can't buy contentment

Vs. 6 Today's prosperity teachers miss translate this verse as they teach "***Godliness will bring you great gain and make you content.***" But that's not what this verse says. 90% of all leaving in the U.S. are wealthier than the world's population. That which should be a means to support life is made the goal of life! Some have been too eager to pluck the rose of wealth and were pierced by thorns.

1. Vs. 6 ***Wealth cannot bring contentment:*** Paul defines for us what true wealth is and in so doing he tells us what true wealth is not: ***True wealth is not defined by what you possess but rather by Who possess you!*** It is not what you have that determines your wealth, it's Who has you. Contentment means "*inner sufficiency that allows us to be at peace in spite of outward circumstances*". **True contentment comes from godliness in the heart not cash in the hand!** Our great gain is to be found in our "*Godliness*" or "*wholeness*". There are those that define contentment in terms of little children, "***Getting whatever you want, whenever you want it!***" This wrong definition causes people to be rootless and restless as they seek things to dead the pain of living an empty life. A better way of describing "*contentment*" is "***Wanting only what God has given you!***" Paul defined it best in his words to the Philippians in chapter 4 verse 11-13 where he said, "*Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens*

*me.” Jesus said in Luke 12:15 “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”*

### **III. Vs. 7 Money can't be taken with you**

2. Vs. 7 ***Wealth is not lasting***: To make sure that Timothy would have ample illustrations to share with those that had a misconception of wealth he uses “*birth and death*” to clarify exactly what he means, “*we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*” Whatever wealth a person amasses in this life goes to someone else, most likely the government. The answer to the question often asked about a wealthy person at their death is; “*How much did they leave behind?*” and the answer is always the same, regardless of their earthly fortune, EVERYTHING! I've done a lot of funerals but I have yet to see one with a U-Hall behind the Hearse!

### **IV. Vs. 8 Money has limited value**

3. Vs. 8 ***Wealth is needed for the necessities***: The word clothing can be rightly translated as covering and includes all types of covering from the elements' both clothing and shelter. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4 that, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*” Saint's it is in relationship with God that that you have true contentment as we have security and peace. I have found that the proof of this can only really be discovered when what we inadvertently placed our contentment in “health, wealth, etc.” is taken away. It is easy to fall prey to the materialistic world when we are being pounded into its form constantly but we mustn't allow the world to dictate our true value, our true

contentment. The poet Thoreau said, “A man’s wealth is proportionate to the number of things he can afford to do without!” Too many folks today know the “PRICE” of everything but the “VALUE” of nothing as they have become glutted with luxuries and have forgotten how to enjoy the necessities.

#### V. Vs. 9-10 Money can ruin your life

4. Vs. 9-10 **Wealth can cause destruction**: The phrase “*those who desire to be rich*” is translated “*those who WILL be rich*” as they have an appetite for more and more things in order to feel happy and successful. Servants of Christ must never ask, “*How much will I get? But rather “How much can I give?”* There are **five things we believers must be aware of** that are progressive in nature or we will be ripped off from our true riches and security?
  - a. Vs. 9a **Desire**: “*Those that desire to be rich*”: First Paul says this is all because of desire, and the question is how much is too much? Verse 10 is often miss quoted as it is **the desire to be rich**, not money that is the root of all kinds of evil. Paul is speaking of the craving for riches, the desire to have more and more money. There is a difference of providing for your family and spending every waking moment chasing after dollars as your objective. Life is more than the pursuit of wealth as Jesus said in Matthew 6:25 “*Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?*”
  - b. Vs. 9b **Temptation**: “*fall into temptation*”: Second Paul says that we need to realize that this will come at us constantly in temptation. It happens when we see something that we become convinced that we “*Just can’t live without*”.

Merchants have become very cleaver at seducing us as they make the item appear as a necessity, they package it in a way that makes it appealing and offer it at a discount. It is **a very present danger to become possessed by your possessions**. In Matthew 19 Jesus encountered the rich young ruler who had become possessed by his possessions when he said that, “*the young man went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*”

- c. Vs 9c **Captivity**: “*and a snare, ..into many foolish and harmful lusts...*”: We can become seduced by our desire and it won’t be long before the things you desire will take the place of people you love. Our society is littered with cast off children who have become neglected as their parents pursued wealth and luxury. This captivity doesn’t just place you in bondage it places those who love you there as well and can be cruel, callous, neglectful as well as shameful.
- d. Vs. 9d **Death**: “*which drown men in destruction and perdition*”: Stay on this tract and you will become way over your head drowning in what at once was only a desire. We see these folks all the time and wonder how they got there. They chased after the desire and soon they didn’t have enough money for the necessities because they spent their hard earned dollars after their wants.
- e. Vs. 10 **Idolatry**: “*which some of strayed from the faith*”: Paul says, that the roots can be very difficult to get rid of in our lives, as the roots can always send out more shoots. One of those shoots is the “*straying from the faith in their greediness...*” In Matthew 13:22 Jesus gave the interpretation of the parable of the sower where He said, “*He who received seed among the thorns*

*is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.*” Saints that’s ***the*** ***difference between worshipping Jesus and worshipping materialism:*** When you worship Jesus you are worshipping Him who was pierced for our sins, but when you worship materialism it will require of you to become pierced with many sorrows.

There are folks who live there whole lives determined to arrive at their desired destination. They have sold everything to get there, pursued after it their entire life but as they arrive at the destination they find it not at all what they were thinking. It is at that moment that a person can realize that ***“They strived so hard to get to a place where they could HAVE everything they wanted but now they realize they have nothing they want!”*** They have ***“destination sickness”*** and it is the result of chasing after riches. Hey friend instead of chasing after the dollar chase after what is written on the dollar ***“In God We Trust”!***