

Studies In Christianity
Christian Lifestyle #12a
Contented With What He Has
 Text : **I Timothy 6: 3-19**

S#1.

S#2.

A. What is the greatest need you have, the most important thing you lack?

1. Finish this sentence : **IF** I had _____ I would be happy.
2. The U.S.A. is the richest country in the history of the world.
 - a. But, in 2017 only 33% of American said they were happy.
 - b. That was up from 31% in 2016.
 - c. In late 2017 the economy was taking off better than it had in years, yet only 2% were more contented than when it was down.
3. If that same survey was taken today the figure would be much lower.
 - a. The modern American has little ability to deal with stress.
 - b. Americans are basically not a satisfied people.
 - c. Historically, we have taught our children not to be contented, but to be strivers. However, modern children just want their way.

B. In the late 1800s John D. Rockefeller controlled 90% of the petroleum.

S#3.

1. With the possible exception of Kg. Solomon, Rockefeller was the richest man in the history of the world ... **350 Billion** in today's money.
2. When a reporter asked Mr. Rockefeller how much money would be enough for him, he responded "*Just a little more.*"
3. At another time Mr. Rockefeller was quoted as saying :
 "If your only goal is to be rich, you will never achieve it."
 He sought to gain, but to him it was about more than accumulating wealth.

C. When we talk about contentment, we are not talking about having everything you might desire to have.

S#4.

1. If you are contented, you are satisfied with your life or the situation you are in.
2. It is accepting one's situation or life with equanimity and satisfaction

— Collins English Dictionary

D. Contentment is fundamental to Christianity :

1. **I Tim. 6: 5** – evil suspicions, **5** and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. **6** But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

S#5.

2. We must be servants ONLY of Christ.

Luke 16: 13 – No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

3. God will **NOT** be 2nd place in anyone's life; *He is #1 or number none.*

I. God has always desired that His people be satisfied / contented.

S#6.

A. What is the opposite of contentment ? Covetousness.

1. **Exod. 20: 17** – You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor. **S#7.**

** David coveted his next-door neighbor's wife and that sin destroyed him.*

2. To covet what another has is to treat him unlovingly.

Rom. 13: 9 – For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. **S#8.**

B. Greed / covetousness is a particularly evil sin.

S#9.

1. Greed is listed as being typical of unrighteousness.

Rom. 1: 29 – being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

2. Covetousness which is greed is not accept behavior for Christians.

Eph. 5: 3 – immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

3. Covetous people cannot be saved.

- a. **Eph. 5: 5** – For this you know with certainty, that **NO** immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **S#10.**

- b. Greed / covetousness is idolatry.

Col. 3: 5 – Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

- c. Remember Repentance: **God will save us FROM** our sin, but not **IN** our sin.

C. Christians cannot even fraternize with those who are covetousness.

I Cor. 5: 9 – I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; **S#11.**
10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. **11** But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler — not even to eat with such a one.

II. Having earthly wealth is an obstacle to entering Heaven.

S#12.

A. We know we are rich when :

S#13.

1. We don't feel the need to pray daily for our needs to be provided.
 - a. **Luke 11:3** – Give us each day our daily bread.
 - b. We don't pray for our daily needs because we assume them.
2. Even in America, there are people who don't have food security.
 - a. One concern about getting children back in school is that they are fed there,
 - b. 37 million people (incl. 11 Mil. children) are food insecure. (1 in 9)
3. One guy said he knew he was rich when he got home from the grocery and didn't know the cost of anything in the bags He just got what he wanted.

B. Christianity requires one's faith be in God, not things.

1. Few people will admit to loving the things of this world as much as God.

I John 2: 15 – Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17** The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. **S#14.**
3. When given a choice between earth's luxury and Heaven, **the ruler chose this life.**
 - a. **Matt. 19:20** – And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" ... if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." **20** The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?" **21** Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, and follow Me." **22** But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. **S#15.**
 - b. What would your response be if you were told that in order to go to Heaven you would have to give all you owned to strangers. (Brethren at Pentecost)

3. Even the Apostle Paul's coworkers chose this world when confronted with the choice
 - a. **II Tim. 4: 10** – Make every effort to come to me soon; **10** for Demas, having **S#16.** loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. **11** Only Luke is with me.
 - b. **Demas**, **Crescens**, and **Titus** all forsook Paul in order to save their lives.

III. The rich have special responsibilities.

S#17.

A. God gives ALL wealth so HE has a claim on all wealth.

1. **Luke 12: 16** – And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man **S#18.** was very productive. **17** "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' **18** "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **19** 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" **20** "But God said to him, ' You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' **21** "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."
2. What was this successful farmer's **sin** ?
 - a. He had worked hard.
 - b. God had made him successful.
 - c. He wanted to retire.
3. He thought only of himself and did not use his wealth to serve God, via others.

B. God is proportional in both His demands and His reward.

1. The rich (*American*) are required to be willing to share their blessings with others.

I Tim. 6: 17 – Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be **S#19.** conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. **18** Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.
2. These verses have multiple commands :
 - a. Don't trust in wealth.
 - b. Do good and good works.
 - c. Be generous.
 - d. Share with a view toward Heaven.

3. Luke 16: 19-31 ... The rich man was condemned for not helping Lazarus.

- a. The rich man had the ability to help but did not.
- b. Even in torment the rich man saw himself as being above the poor man.

C. It is NOT sinful to be rich, but it entails more responsibility.

1. There were many rich heroes of the faith ..., e.g.,

- a. Noah, Job, Abraham, David
- b. Solomon was destroyed by his wealth.

2. To whom much is given, much is required.

Luke 12: 47 – And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, **48** but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted

S#20.

3. Everything God places within our hand, HE expects it to be used to serve Him.
4. **Thus**, when we ask for more, we ask for more responsibility.

IV. Christians must be contented with our daily needs.

S#21.

A. We are given what God wants for us to have.

James 1: 16 – Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. **17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

S#22.

B. We are commanded to be satisfied with our daily needs.

1. **I Tim. 6: 6** – But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. **7** For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. **8** If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

S#23.

2. This is what we are commanded to pray for :

Luke 11:3 – Give us each day our daily bread.

C. **John D. Rockefeller had the proper view of wealth.** (see slide)

S#24.

CONCLUSION :

A. We are learning NOT to have our primary focus on this passing world.

B. This lesson is to prepare our minds to receive next week's lesson.

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :**I Timothy 6: 3-19**

3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, **4** he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, **5** and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. **6** But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. **7** For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. **8** If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. **9** But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which He will bring about at the proper time — He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. **18** Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.



God gave me my money. I believe the power to make money is a gift from God, to be developed and used to the best of our ability for the good of mankind.