

Perspective on Prosperity

1 Timothy 6:3-10

Ecclesia, 17

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Be discerning of false teaching ... verses 3-5

"If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction"

- the message fails to focus on true godliness: living dependently.
- the result is ...
 1. an arrogant and superficial view of life
"he is conceited and understands nothing"
 2. an unhealthy desire for "formula" theology which leads to ...
"he has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words"
 - relational conflict
"envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions, and constant friction"
 - thinking that "godliness" guarantees financial profit.
"corrupt mind ... think that godliness is a means to financial gain"

Be diligent with your perspective on money ... verses 6-10

- Godliness (with contentment) brings eternal, lasting riches, v. 6
"But godliness with contentment is great gain"

Contentment is ...
- Contentment comes through ... vv. 7-8
 1. maintaining an eternal perspective
"For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it"
 2. choosing a simple lifestyle
"But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."
- Desiring to be rich leads to ... vv. 9-10
"People who want to get rich fall ..."
 1. being trapped by irrational thinking
"into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires"
 2. living independently of God
"for the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."

Questions for Reflection ...

How often do you think about money?

What beliefs do you have about the ability of money to bring contentment?

Quote: "Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."
Proverbs 30:7-9