

THE PATH TO REAL WEALTH
From Bondage to Blessing Series Part 3
TEXT: 1 Timothy 6:6–10 (NKJV)

INTRO: WHAT IS REAL WEALTH?

We all want a life that is truly rich. We want healthy relationships, meaningful lives, enough to care for our families, and the freedom to enjoy what God has given us. But the world often tells us that real wealth is found in **having more, getting more, and achieving more.**

Paul gives us a different picture. He warns us that when the desire for more begins controlling our hearts, it can become a trap. The problem is not having possessions or working hard. **The problem begins when our desire for more becomes greater than our desire for God.** That is why Paul says, **1 Timothy 6:6- Godliness with contentment is great gain."**

True wealth is not measured only by what we possess. **True wealth is having a heart that is satisfied in Christ, living for what matters, and remaining free from the control of possessions.** As we look at this passage, there are three important questions we should ask ourselves:

What truly satisfies my heart?
What really matters?
How do I stay free?

1. CONTENTMENT CHANGES WHAT SATISFIES US

1 Timothy 6:6- Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

Before Paul warns us about greed, he points us toward contentment. **If greed is the bondage, contentment is the pathway to freedom.** Contentment means "inner sufficiency" or "a heart at rest." It is the confidence that God is enough and that His faithfulness is greater than our circumstances. Contentment does not mean we stop dreaming, working hard, or pursuing God's purpose. It means our happiness is no longer dependent on the **next purchase, promotion, paycheck, or achievement.**

Think about trying to fill a bucket that has a hole in the bottom. You can keep pouring water into it, but it never stays full. Sometimes we live the same way. We think, **"If I could just get that next thing, then I would be satisfied."** But after we get it, we soon discover that we want something else. The problem is not what we are pouring into our lives. **There is a place in the human heart that possessions were never designed to fill.**

Jesus said: John 6:35- **I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger.**

Only Christ can satisfy the deepest hunger of our hearts. **Contentment is not settling for less. It is discovering that in Christ, we already have what matters most.** When Christ becomes enough, everything else begins to find its proper place. **A satisfied heart is a heart that is free.**

2. ETERNITY CHANGES WHAT WE VALUE

1 Timothy 6:7- For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

Everything we have in this life is temporary. We came into this world with nothing, and we will leave the same way. Our abilities, opportunities, relationships, possessions, time, talents, finances, and influence are **gifts God has entrusted to us for a season**. That means the question is not simply, **"What do I own?"**

A better question is: **"What am I doing with what God has entrusted to me?"** Jesus said in **Matthew 6:19–20** to lay up treasures in heaven. Jesus was not condemning possessions; **He was correcting our priorities**. Someone once asked, **"Have you ever seen a hearse pulling a U-Haul?"** Of course not! We cannot take our possessions with us, **but we can use what God has given us to make an eternal difference**. When eternity becomes our perspective, our priorities begin to change. We stop asking only, **"What can I get?"** and begin asking, **"How can my life honor God and bless others?"**

3. GENEROSITY CHANGES THE ATTITUDE OF OUR HEART

Paul warns:

1 Timothy 6:9- Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare...

A **snare** is a hidden trap. That is how greed works. It rarely announces itself. It begins quietly:

- ***"I just need a little more."***
- ***"Then I'll finally be happy."***
- ***"I'll become generous later."***

The danger is not money itself. **The danger comes when the pursuit of more becomes the pursuit of our lives**. Think about the monkey trap. Fruit is placed inside a narrow-necked jar. The monkey reaches inside, grabs the fruit, and then cannot pull its closed fist back through the opening.

The monkey could be free if it would simply **let go**. Sometimes what we refuse to release begins controlling us. That is why Paul tells believers in **1 Timothy 6:17–18** not to put their hope in uncertain riches, but in God, and to **"be generous, willing to share."** Generosity helps keep our hearts free.

ILL: Think also about the **Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea**. Both receive water, but the Sea of Galilee releases what it receives and is full of life.

**The difference is not simply what they receive.
The difference is what they release.**

God blesses us not only to meet our needs, but so that our lives can become a blessing to others.

CONCLUSION: THREE QUESTIONS OF THE HEART

Today we have answered three important questions.

What satisfies my heart? — Christ does.

Lasting satisfaction is found in Jesus, not possessions.

What really matters? — What is eternal.

Life is temporary, so we want to invest ourselves in what lasts.

How do I stay free? — By living generously.

Generosity keeps our hearts trusting God instead of being controlled by what we possess.

Contentment changes what satisfies us. Eternity changes what we value. Generosity changes how we live.

So let our prayer be:

“Lord, search my heart. Teach me to find my satisfaction in Christ, to live for what is eternal, and to faithfully use what You have entrusted to me. Help me trust You and live generously.”