

As a result of doing what Jesus says in Luke 16:9, what does Jesus say “they” will do in turn to you? \_\_\_\_\_

So what does that mean in terms of eternal values? I.E. *They will be living in an “eternal home” – which means they will be living in eternity with the Lord.* \_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion

Paul’s purpose is for us to lay hold of **eternal life** and not **lose it**.

In this passage, Paul lays out a path that leads to **ruin, destruction, and a pierced heart** (v. 9-10) and a path that leads to **contentment, enjoyment, and eternal life** (v. 6, 18, 19). We must **choose** the path we follow.

**RESPOND** (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the most significant scriptures for you this week? (Write them out and highlight key words or phrases.) \_\_\_\_\_

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**WHY** are those scriptures *significant to you at this time in your life?* \_\_\_\_\_

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**HOW** will you practically apply what God spoke to you about? (Give specifics/ action steps)

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**WHAT** will be the time frame for your application?

(1) Start date (2) Periodic check-ups (3) End date

**WHO** I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: \_\_\_\_\_

# Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church

(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Bill Bump on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017)

## CONTENTMENT IS TRUE WEALTH

Series: E-100 – 1 Timothy 6

The book of 1 Timothy provides guiding principles for local churches, including rules for public worship and qualifications for leadership (overseers, pastors), deacons (those caring for the physical needs), and special church workers. Paul tells the church leaders to correct incorrect doctrine and to deal lovingly and fairly with all people in the church. The church is not organized simply for the sake of organization but so that Christ can be honored and glorified. While studying these guidelines, don’t lose sight of what is most important in the life of the church—knowing God, working together in loving harmony, and taking God’s Good News, the gospel of Jesus Christ, into all the world.

Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,700

Today’s E-100 passage is found in **1 Timothy 6** and is a very practical section on the **Christian view of wealth**.

1 Timothy 6 makes it very clear that what we do with our **wealth** could **destroy** us or could lead to **eternal life**.

Paul begins by making clear what brings **real value** to our lives:

**READ 1 Timothy 6:6** *Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth.*

The Greek word for *godliness* means **goodness, balance, and wholeness**. These qualities produce a **contented heart**.

Godliness that overcomes the cravings for **material wealth** produces great **spiritual wealth**. Pursuing **riches** for their own sake will not lead to **contentment**.

**1 Timothy 6:6** – This statement is the key to spiritual growth and personal fulfillment. We should honor God and center our desires on Him (Matthew 6:33), & we should be content with what God is doing in our lives (Philippians 4:11-13).

Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,699

**REFLECT** Godliness [Gk. EUSEBEIA] is defined as: to be devout, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him. **After re-reading all the above, what does 1 Timothy 6:6 mean to you in practical terms?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Luke 12:15** *Then [Jesus] said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”*

**REFLECT** What is the truth in the second half of Luke 12:15? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some ways greed might manifest itself? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you “guard against” greed? \_\_\_\_\_

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Paul gives three reasons why we should not make wealth our highest priority :

1. We will take out of this world exactly what we brought into it.

**READ 1 Timothy 6:7** *After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it.*

We all die paupers. We leave it all behind.

2. We can and ought to be content with the simple necessities of life.

**READ 1 Timothy 6:8** *So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.*

We can be content because God is with us.

**READ Hebrews 13:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>*Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."* <sup>6</sup>*So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"*

3. Chasing wealth can end in the destruction of our life.

**1 Timothy 6:6-10** – Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, most people still believe that money brings happiness. This passage tells us that craving greater riches can lead to an endless cycle that only ends in ruin and destruction. So how can you keep from falling into the trap of craving more? Paul gives some guidelines: (1) Realize that one day riches will all be gone (6:7, 17); (2) be content with what you have (6:8); (3) monitor what you are willing to do to get more money (6:9, 10); (4) care more about people and relationships than money & stuff (6:11); (5) focus on who God wants you to be and pursue Him more than personal gain (6:11); (6) freely share what you have with others (6:18). [See Proverbs 30:7-9 for more on avoiding the love of money.]  
Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,699

**READ 1 Timothy 6:9-10** Mark what stands out to you.

<sup>9</sup>*But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.* <sup>10</sup>*For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.*

It is very important for us to notice where the emphasis is placed. It is the love of money, not money, that is the root of all evil.

Chasing wealth can cause us to fall into senseless and hurtful desires.

Loving money can cause us to wander from our faith.

The root of all evil is settling for the love of money instead of the love of God.

**REFLECT** Write down everything we are told in 1 Timothy 6:9, 10. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Paul then teaches us how to handle the wealth we do possess:

1. Don't let wealth produce pride.

**READ 1 Timothy 6:17** *Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.*

**REFLECT** You may have heard the phrase: "More is caught than taught." What would be some ways you can communicate to others what we are told to do in 1 Timothy 6:17? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Don't trust in wealth for all your needs.

3. Be generous.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** – Ephesus was a wealthy city and the Ephesian church probably had many wealthy members. Paul advised Timothy to deal with any potential problems by teaching that having riches carries great responsibility. We are not to view our position in society or in the church as being more or less influential based upon our economic standing. We are to use our money to do good. We are to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share. No matter how much money you have, your life should demonstrate that God controls your resources, of which He has given you the ability to earn.  
Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,700

**READ 1 Timothy 6:18** *Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.*

Paul closes by telling the great result if we obey what he has taught:

**READ 1 Timothy 6:19** *By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

**REFLECT** What are we told to do in verse 18? \_\_\_\_\_  
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What does verse 19 say will be the results of living out verse 18? [What do you think that would look like?] \_\_\_\_\_  
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**READ Matthew 6:19-20** Mark what stands out to you.

<sup>19</sup>*Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal.* <sup>20</sup>*Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.*

**READ Luke 16:9** Mark what stands out to you.

*"Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home."* [Jesus]

**REFLECT** In Luke 16:9, what does Jesus say we are to do to with our "worldly resources" ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Who are "they" that Jesus is referring to in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
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