

“Lightning & Thunder”

(Grace & Giving)

A special series on Stewardship – Part 10

7/1/07

Text: 1 Timothy 6

What you do with money – or desire to do with it – can make or break your happiness forever. The Bible makes it clear that what you feel about money can destroy you OR secure the foundation of your life in eternity.

BEWARE THE DESIRE TO BE RICH

This text is very timely. These are days where profits are to be made in religion and forms of godliness. It’s a hot market for booksellers and music makers (when Christian artists are being pursued by secular labels, its cause for a pause).

Paul says in verse six, *there is great gain in godliness with contentment*. That word *contentment* is the elusive word for the day.

Three (3) Reasons WHY You Should NOT Pursue Riches -

1. C_____ TAKE IT WITH YOU – v.7 *“for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.”*

2. L_____ THE W_____ GAIN THAT MATTER PRODUCES (I.e. - Simplify, downsize) – v.8 *“But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”*

Three (3) Reasons WHY & HOW Simplicity (Point #2) is Possible & Good =

a.) We can be content with simplicity because WHEN YOU HAVE GOD NEAR YOU AND FOR YOU, YOU DON’T NEED _____

Hebrews 13:5-6 says, *“Keep your life free from the love of money. Be content with what you have. For he has said, ‘I will never fail you nor forsake you.’ Hence we confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can man do to me?’”*

b.) We can be content with simplicity because THE DEEPEST, _____ MOST _____ SATISFYING D_____ GOD GIVES US ARE FREE GIFTS FROM N_____ AND LOVING R_____.

c.) We should be content with the simple necessities of life because WE COULD INVEST THE EXTRA WE MAKE FOR WHAT R_____ C_____.

3. THE E_____ BRINGS D_____ – v. 9-10 *“⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”*

Q. – Are you awake and free from the false messages of American merchandising? OR has the economic lie deceived you that more is better? Newer is better? Bigger is better?