



STOP

GOING TO

CHURCH

SERIES EXTRAS

WEEK 5

1. LOOKING BACK AT YOUR NOTES FROM THIS WEEK'S TEACHING, WAS THERE ANYTHING THAT PARTICULARLY CAUGHT YOUR ATTENTION, CHALLENGED, OR CONFUSED YOU?

2. VERY FEW PEOPLE THINK THEIR GOD IS MONEY. PEOPLE NEVER SEEM TO SAY, "I NEED HELP OVERCOMING GREED." WHY IS MONEY SUCH A DECEPTIVE MASTER?

3. WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY WHERE MOST PEOPLE ENJOY MANY MATERIAL POSSESSIONS. WHAT WOULD BE A NON-ESSENTIAL MATERIAL POSSESSION THAT WOULD BE EASY FOR YOU TO GIVE UP? NAME ONE THAT WOULD BE MORE CHALLENGING TO GIVE UP BESIDES YOUR RESIDENCE OR VEHICLE.

4. CAN YOU THINK OF ANY WAYS PEOPLE HAVE POSITIVELY INVESTED IN YOUR LIFE THAT THEY MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW?

5. PAUL, THE WRITER OF I TIMOTHY, UNDERSTANDS THE TENSION WE EXPERIENCE BETWEEN BALANCING OUR PURSUIT OF BEING RICH IN GOOD DEEDS VERSUS RICH IN MATERIAL POSSESSIONS. THAT'S WHY HE WRITES "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF THE FAITH." (I TIMOTHY 6:12) PART OF THE DILEMMA IS THAT OUR PURSUIT OF FINANCIAL GAIN TELLS US THE LIE THAT ITS RETURN IS MORE REWARDING THAN THE PURSUIT OF GOD AND MAKING AN ETERNAL INVESTMENT. WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING VERSES TELL YOU THAT YOU GAIN IN THE PURSUIT OF GOD THAT NO MATERIAL POSSESSION WILL GIVE YOU? -PSALM 112:1-9 - MATTHEW 5:6

**6. READ THE FOLLOWING VERSES AND JOT DOWN WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT A HEALTHY PERSPECTIVE ON OUR FINANCES AND GENEROSITY. -DEUTERONOMY 8:17-18
I CHRONICLES 29:11-12 -PROVERBS 23:4-5 -LUKE 12:15 -I JOHN 3:17-18**

**7. ONE OF THE KEYS TO BUILDING GENEROSITY INTO OUR LIFE IS LEARNING TO BE CONTENT WITH WHAT WE HAVE. AS MOST OF US KNOW, THIS KIND OF CONTENTMENT CAN BE A CHALLENGE. WHAT INSIGHT AND HOPE DOES PAUL GIVE US IN MOVING TOWARD THIS KIND OF CONTENTMENT? -2 CORINTHIANS 6:10
-PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13**

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR GREATEST CHALLENGES IN BEING CONTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE?

HOW CAN THE PRINCIPLES IN MATTHEW 6:25-27,33-34 HELP US GROW IN OUR ABILITY TO BE CONTENT WITH EITHER MUCH OR LITTLE?

8. IN THE LATE 1800'S HORATIO SPAFFORD WROTE THE FAMOUS HYMN, IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL, IN RESPONSE TO THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS DAUGHTERS IN A SHIPWRECK. HERE IS THE FIRST VERSE OF THAT SONG:

**"WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER ATTENDETH MY WAY,
WHEN SORROWS LIKE SEA-BILLOWS ROLL,
WHATEVER MY LOT, THOU HAS TAUGHT ME TO KNOW;
IT IS WELL, IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL."**

HIS WORDS LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT HE HAD FOUND CONTENTMENT EVEN AMIDST HORRIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES. BIBLICAL CONTENTMENT DOES NOT MEAN WE HAVE TO LOVE EVERYTHING JUST THE WAY IT IS, BUT IT DOES MEAN WE CAN COPE WITH EVEN THOSE THINGS WE MOST DREAD. HOW CAN PSALM 46:1-3 & 10- 11 HELP US BETTER LEARN TO BE CONTENT EVEN IN HARD TIMES THAT WE'D RATHER BYPASS?

HOMEWORK: IF YOU'RE MARRIED, TALK WITH YOUR SPOUSE, AND IF YOU'RE SINGLE TALK WITH A FEW FRIENDS ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO BE "RICH TOWARD GOD" (LUKE 12:21).