

THE Rock COMMUNITY CHURCH

1 Timothy 6:3-10

“It Could Be a Wonderful Life”

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18:54

Well, it's good to have you guys here. I want to invite you guys to make your way to 1 Timothy chapter six. And as we get started, I'd like to start with a question this morning. So if you could choose between having a happy life or an unhappy life, which one would you choose? Seems like a fairly simple question, right?

19:16

Now, anybody want to, you know, I want the unhappy life. You know, this week's passage that we're gonna be looking at is gonna talk about an unhappy life. It's gonna talk about a happy life and it's gonna warn us about a trap that can steal our happiness.

19:30

So, you know, if this is a conversation that may seem to apply to you, I think that probably lumps you in with just about everybody else, right? See, everybody wants to have a good life. Everybody wants to have a wonderful life, right?

19:41

They even named a movie after it. But this conversation that we're gonna have this morning impacts literally every person in the world, every person in our society and our

culture and especially us in this wealthy American, Southern California context that we live in, right?

19:57

So I think you chose a good weekend to come to church. So I look around the room and I see some new faces. So for those of you guys that are new this weekend, I know we've got some people that are here just for baptism, it's not just me, but wanted to kind of fill you guys in on what's going on.

20:13

So we are in the middle of a study that we're going through a letter that is titled First Timothy. So if you wanna follow along, there should be a black Bible underneath of your chair or maybe underneath of the one in front of you.

20:25

We are on page 1,214. 1,214 in those Bibles, if you wanna follow along. If you brought your own Bible, I can't help you, right? You're on your own trying to find that one. But we're in the middle of this study where we're looking at a letter that was written by a guy named Paul, the apostle Paul, to a young pastor named Timothy.

20:44

Now Paul was a missionary, had traveled all around the ancient world at this point and he had played a key role in starting several churches, specifically a church in a city called Ephesus, which is where Paul has now sent Timothy to go be the young, excuse me, the young pastor.

21:02

Timothy was his assistant. And now Timothy is there in Ephesus trying to help this church and kind of get some things worked out because some problems had popped up since Paul had left Ephesus a few years ago.

21:14

So after Paul has kind of moved on, this says Timothy's in charge. Now Paul is hearing reports of the fact that there's some things that are kind of going sideways in Ephesus at this church. And so he's writing this letter, first Timothy, to kind of address some of the stuff that's going on, giving some instruction to Timothy, giving some instruction to this church.

21:33

And so that's where we're kind of picking up as we start this week. So Paul is giving Timothy and this Ephesian church that he loves some instructions on how church is supposed to go and on how just kind of generally the Christian life for all believers is supposed to work.

21:49

So we're gonna read a short little section together this morning. You can follow along in your copy or you can follow along on the screens as well. We're gonna read first Timothy chapter six, verses three through 10.

22:02

Starting in verse three, it says that if anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he has puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.

22:15

He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

22:30

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we

will be content. But 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.

22:50

For the love of money is the 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. These are the words of the Lord.

22:59

Would you guys pray with me now? God, we thank you for your word. We thank you for this time that we can gather together with our church family, with the church gathered together. And God, as we have this time, as we sing and encourage one another, as we spend time together over a cup of coffee and a donut.

23:16

And God, as we come to your word now at this point in the morning, God, we thank you for the opportunity. And God, we pray that you would speak to us through your holy word. God, we pray that you would help us to have hearts and minds that are receptive to what you would have to say to us this morning.

23:32

And God, we pray most importantly, not that I would speak, but God, that you would speak and that all of us would have ears to hear what you have to say to us this morning. So we give this time to you.

23:41

We pray that you would use it for your glory. That's in Jesus' name, we pray, amen. All right, well, if we're going to work our way through this passage, the first thing that we're gonna see in verses three through five is that Paul is describing an unhappy life, what an unhappy life looks like.

23:55

So, you know, there's two different types of teaching that he's specifically talking about, kind of implying and then talking about here in this passage. And this has actually been discussed a little bit earlier in the letter.

24:07

So if you've been with us, these words are gonna sound familiar to you, but he's talking about sound words, what he describes as sound words. And then there's these different doctrines. And doctrine is simply a term that means a set of beliefs, of some kind.

24:21

So we're gonna look at sound words and we're gonna look at different doctrines. So sound words, as he would describe them, is any teaching that aligns with what Jesus has said, whether it's the words of Jesus or whether it's teaching that has come out of the words of Jesus like what Paul was doing here.

24:38

Now this term sound, sound words, is a medical term that would refer to something as healthy or wholesome. It means that it's put together properly, that structure is sound, essentially, right? That the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ, simply put, is the Christian gospel.

24:56

It is the basics of what we believe of why we're here, of the reason that all of this exists. Jesus is the one and only Son of God. There is one God and God created the earth. God created humanity to have a relationship with him, but that our sins have separated us from God and that creates a problem for us, right?

25:16

But in that problem, in that dilemma of us not being able to measure up to God's standard, God reached in and God intervened because God sent his one and only Son, Jesus, to come and to live among humanity.

25:29

Jesus came and he lived perfectly. He measured up to God's perfect standard that none of us could ever measure up to. He checked every box, he obeyed every rule, every law. Jesus lived the perfect life.

25:41

And in doing so, he earned the favor of God that none of us can earn. When God looks at us, he sees people that are busted and messed, at least for me, he looks at me and sees someone who's just busted and messed up and falls short of his perfect standard every single day.

25:58

But the fact that Jesus came and lived perfectly, Jesus measured up to that standard. And by doing so, he earned the favor of God with his perfect righteousness, his perfectly right life. But when he grew up and he became a man, he went and he died on a cross.

26:15

He died a common criminal's death that he didn't deserve. He was both wrongfully accused and he didn't, in human terms, deserve to die. But he also, in cosmic terms, in God's terms, he didn't deserve to die because he had never sinned.

26:29

He never earned that penalty of death, but he willingly went to the cross and he suffered and he died on a cross, paying a penalty that he didn't deserve, so that sinners like me that do deserve that penalty.

26:41

When he was raised from the dead and he got up and he walked out of the grave three days later, he proved that he had power over death and he proves that he can offer eternal life to anyone who would place their faith in him.

26:54

That's what we're gonna be doing up here in a few minutes is we're gonna be celebrating what some people in our church, we've got six that are gonna be baptized here in just a few minutes and they are, right?

27:07

Don't wear your hands out. You guys give them the applause in a little bit, but yeah. Jesus came to offer life to sinners like me and sinners like you who would simply place their faith in him to save them.

27:22

Jesus offers salvation to anyone and everyone who would place their faith in him to save them. And so that is simply put, Paul just said sound words, right? I'm gonna give you a little bit more than that, but that's what those sound words are.

27:36

The sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ, that's what he's talking about. That is the message, the right belief that he's talking about, but then he also starts to talk about these different doctrines.

27:46

And there's all kinds of different things that don't align with that, right? There's all kinds of different things. Simply put, any religion, any teaching, anything else that would place their hope for eternity, they would place their hope in standing before God or "the gods" one day with hope that they could somehow please the gods if they place their faith in anything other than Jesus' sacrifice, that's what Paul is referring to as different doctrine.

28:13

Now there's lots of different religions, there's lots of different beliefs about the afterlife, about how we please God or how we please the gods, depending on what culture you

find that in. But all of those other religions, all of those different doctrines, as Paul would refer to them, are focused on how men and women can earn favor with God, that we can somehow be good enough, right?

28:37

I've had this conversation once, I've had it a thousand times, I'll ask someone, hey, what do you believe about the afterlife? Do you believe in the afterlife? Oh yeah, I believe in heaven and hell. So where do you think you're gonna end up?

28:50

Well, I'm going to heaven, right? Everybody thinks they're going to heaven, why? Because I'm a good person. Because I'm good. You know, I know, I've got family members, they're not good people, but I'm a good person, right?

29:04

We can all play this comparison game and we start to look around at the people around us and go, you know, I'm not perfect, but I'm a lot better than that guy, right? I'm a lot better than her. And so we can play this game and we can feel like we're pretty good people.

29:18

In fact, you know, I think I made the joke last night, I think even Hitler probably could look around and go, you know, hey, there's lots of things that people can say about me, but at least I'm not as bad as that guy over there, right?

29:28

We all have things that we can look around and we can say, well, at least I'm not as bad as someone else. But all those different religions, all those different ways that people think they can earn God's favor by just doing enough of the good things, doing enough of the right stuff and avoiding enough of the bad stuff, it's focused on how we can earn our way to God, but only Christianity is able to offer hope for eternity because only

Christianity is the, it's the only religion where this isn't us somehow trying to earn our way to God.

30:02

It's not us hoping that someday we put our good deeds on this side of the cosmic scale and our bad stuff on this side and hope that we balance out in the positive. Only Christianity has hope for eternity because Christianity is the only religion where it is not dependent on us somehow measuring up to some impossible standard.

30:23

Because the Bible tells us that the standard is impossible, right, that we have to be absolutely perfect. If God is absolutely perfect, we have to be absolutely perfect, but we don't place our hope in our ability to measure up.

30:36

We place our faith in Jesus's ability to measure up, that he came, that God himself came and lived among humanity, earned God's favor. And by doing so, by giving his life as a sacrifice, as a substitute for ours, he paid the penalty that we don't wanna pay, that we can't pay on our own.

30:57

So Jesus paid the debt that we deserve so that when he went to the cross and paid a penalty that he didn't deserve, he made us the absolute best trade offer that could ever happen in the history of humanity.

31:09

Because Jesus said, hey, listen, you deserve to die and you deserve the wrath of God, but I'll tell you what, I'll take that and I'll give you my perfect righteousness instead so that when God looks at you, God sees perfect, holy, and looks at us and we now receive a smile from God instead of wrath and anger and punishment that we deserve.

31:29

God came down and did the work on our behalf. So that's simply put when he's talking, when he says sound words and when he says different doctrine, this is simply what he's talking about, right? So how does different doctrine lead to unhappiness?

31:43

In our passage, he says that if anyone teaches a different doctrine that does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, it goes on to list all these things that essentially are kind of summarized as unhappiness.

31:57

It says that he's puffed up with conceit, that he understands nothing, that he has an unhealthy craving for controversy and quarrels and those produce envy and dissension and slander and evil suspicions and constant friction among people who are deprived in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

32:16

Happiness apart from the truth that is, by the way, happiness found in Jesus, it's a slippery thing. It's something that we can't ever fully get our hands around and grasp onto. Look at the characteristics that are mentioned in those verses that I just read.

32:32

The things that identify life apart from Jesus, these different doctrines, whatever they may be, life is characterized by these different things that he mentions. He mentions that life, you are tempted to be conceited and lack understanding that it'll be surrounded by controversy and quarreling and fighting and envy and dissension and evil suspicions, slander, all these terrible things, right?

32:57

It sounds like a terrible list, but I read that list and I think Paul might be, just maybe, trying to describe someone living in our context, in our society today, right? I look at that

list and I think there's a lot of those things that we see every day in relationships that we might have.

33:17

You turn on the news for more than about two minutes and you see, I think you could check off about eight of those boxes in about five minutes on the news, right? All the fighting and the controversy and the anger and the envy and the people are out to get me ideas, people are always looking over their shoulder because somebody's out to get them, right?

33:35

The evil suspicions that he's talking about here. We see lots of controversy and fighting and all these things every single day in our society. At the same time, we see mental illness on the rise. We see anxiety, we see depression, we see all kinds of fears and social disorders, all these different things.

33:53

We see them growing at an alarming rate that people more and more and more are finding their lives kind of enveloped, just surrounded by these overwhelming things that they just can't seem to get their head above water.

34:09

People were being deceived by these false teachers that were teaching a different doctrine and what Paul's saying is, hey, you're going to live that way. You're going to walk in that light. If you're going to follow the different doctrine that other people are teaching, it's a trap.

34:28

It's a slippery slope that is going to lead you down this path. It's leading them away from contentment as we're going to see in just a minute and it's leading them towards all these miserable things that we just mentioned.

34:41

So why are these teachers, why are these influencers, why are they doing it? Why are they leading people in that direction? I wouldn't want to lead someone into a miserable life. What was their motive?

34:49

What's the bottom line? Well, I think the bottom line is the bottom line, right? He says that there are false teachers who are doing what they're doing in order to enrich themselves. At the end of verse five, it says that these teachers imagine that godliness is a means of gain.

35:07

These people are using what they believe and what this web that they're spinning up for people to fall into, it's a means of material gain for them and they believe that godliness is a means of financial gain.

35:23

What Paul's about to say in just a minute is that godliness is in fact a great gain, but not in the way that they are viewing it, not in the kind of gain that these false teachers are craving. In fact, the early church father, Tertullian, from I think it was the second century is when he was kind of cruising around doing his thing, but Tertullian once put it like this.

35:41

And he said, nothing that is God's is obtainable by money. Pretty simple, right? There's lots of things that can be obtained by money, but nothing that is God's is obtainable by money. So there are these self-destructive lessons of greed, and envy, and fighting, and suspicion, all these different things that are the way to lead someone to a miserable and unhappy life.

36:05

So how does someone find happiness in the midst of all this? And in a world, in a culture, with all these teachings that seem to just be constantly pulling people towards unhappiness and misery, how does someone find happiness?

36:19

Well, the good news is Paul lays that out for us as well in verses six through eight, right? He talks about a happy life in verses six through eight. He says in verse six that godliness with contentment is great gain.

36:30

We brought nothing into the world, we cannot take anything out of the world, but if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. Now godliness is not the means to financial gain, godliness is the gain.

36:42

The word contentment that's used here in the Greek language that the Bible was originally written in this passage, the Greek word often referred to Greek philosophy that would think that this idea of contentment refers to a man who had all of his needed resources within himself.

37:01

He was someone who didn't need to depend on anybody else for anything else. They were self-sufficient in who they were. I've got everything that I need right here, but a Christian can't be self-sufficient, can he?

37:12

A Christian cannot be self-sufficient. In fact, to say that there is such a thing as a self-sufficient Christian is kind of a conflict that just we can't reconcile. You cannot be a Christian because by nature, what we're saying when we become a Christian is what I just talked about a minute ago, right?

37:28

That I'm not able to measure up to God's standard, but Jesus was, and so I'm not enough. I need Jesus to be my champion. I need Jesus to be the one that steps in and intervenes on my behalf. And so to say that I'm self-sufficient, it just doesn't work if I'm a Christian.

37:44

It is impossible for a Christian, by the nature of their confession that I need Jesus, they're confessing that they're explicitly not self-sufficient, right? That's what we're doing here. If you're self-sufficient, you're in the wrong spot this morning.

37:56

You need to go live in the woods and do your own thing or whatever it is. Because all these people that are here with you, we're gonna mess you up sooner or later. We're not self-sufficient. We're not able to do it on our own.

38:10

In fact, we're explicitly Jesus dependent. Jesus is sufficient. We are not sufficient. Anyone who has Jesus has everything that they need. And that's what Paul's talking about here. But the problem is that even though we have everything that we need, sometimes we're not content with that.

38:26

Sometimes we're not content with just Jesus because I want Jesus and the bigger house. I want Jesus and a better job. I want that promotion. I deserve this or I deserve that. Jesus is good, but I need Jesus and comfort.

38:41

I need Jesus and wealth. I need Jesus and health. I need Jesus and whatever it is that you fill that blank in with. We think that we deserve more than just Jesus, right? I found this poem by a preacher, Charles Swindoll, that he once read.

38:57

He said that a teenager gave it to him. So I can't footnote the teenager, but let me read this poem for you guys. Talking about the idea of contentment as teenager penned. They said, it was spring, but it was summer that I wanted.

39:09

The warm days and the great outdoors. It was summer, but it was fall that I wanted. The colorful leaves and the cool, dry air. It was fall, but it was winter that I wanted. The beautiful snow and the joy of the holiday season.

39:22

It was winter, but it was spring that I wanted. The warmth and the blossoming of nature. I was a child and it was adulthood that I wanted. The freedom and the respect. I was 20, but it was 30 that I wanted to be mature and sophisticated.

39:36

I was middle -aged, but it was 20 that I wanted. The youth and the free spirit. I was retired, but it was middle -aged that I wanted. The presence of mind without limitations. And my life was over, and I never got what I wanted.

39:50

Discontentment is a trap. Discontentment is something that can rob every other experience of the God -given joy of that moment, right? Because if we're sitting here and we're looking at the weather and we go, man, I wish it was warm enough that I could go to the beach today.

40:05

Well, enjoy what it is for today, right? Anybody that has ever remembers what it was like as a child, when we're kids, we all just wanna grow up, right? And now that we're grown up, all we wanna do is go back to being kids.

40:20

Discontentment robs us of every God -given joy in the appropriate time, in the appropriate season. In the book of Ecclesiastes that we just studied, talked about that, right? And every season, there's an appropriate season for this and an appropriate season for that.

40:35

Enjoy everything in its proper season and stop wishing for something else. In 1 Timothy 6, 7 says that we bring nothing into this world and we cannot take anything out of this world. Now there are two undeniable, unchangeable truths about human possessions that we see in this passage, in this verse.

40:54

Nothing in, nothing out, right? You don't show up with any possessions, you come into this world naked and just you, right? And you leave the world the same way. You don't get to take anything with you when you go.

41:08

It reminds me of one of my favorite jokes that, you know, there's some terrible theology in this, but I think it makes a point that I think fits here. So I shared this a few years ago. Forgive me if you guys have heard the punchline.

41:19

Don't ruin it for your neighbor, right? But let me read for you guys one of my favorite jokes that kind of talks a little bit about this. You know, there was once a rich man who was near death. He was very grieved because he had to work very hard for his money in life and he wanted to be able to take some of it with him to heaven.

41:33

So he began to pray that he might be able to take some of his wealth with him when he goes. An angel heard his plea and appeared to him and said, sorry, but you can't take your wealth with you. And the man implored the angel to speak to God to see if he might be able to bend the rules just this once.

41:48

So the angel reappears and announced that God has decided to make an exception and that God was allowing him to take one suitcase with him. So overjoyed, the man gathered his largest suitcase and fills it with pure gold bars and places it beside his bed.

42:02

And soon afterwards, the man dies and shows up at the pearly gates, St. Peter, seeing the suitcase, stops him and says, hold on, hold on. You can't bring that in here. But the man explained to St. Peter that he had permission and asked Peter to verify his story with the Lord.

42:16

So sure enough, St. Peter returns and says, you're right. You're allowed one carry-on bag, but I'm supposed to check its contents before letting you through. So St. Peter opens the suitcase to inspect the worldly items that were so critical that this man found too precious to leave behind and exclaims, you brought pavement?

42:37

Those of you guys that didn't get the joke, Revelation 21 says that the streets are paved with gold, right? Nothing in and nothing out. We don't get to take it with us when we go. So let's go back to our passage here, verses six through eight.

42:52

He says that, godliness with contentment is great gain. We bring nothing into the world, we cannot take anything out of the world, but if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. So Christians should just be godly and be content.

43:05

Is that what it's saying? If we just have food and clothing, that's enough. Just stop asking for all the extra stuff. Essentially Jesus actually says the same thing, just to make sure that we don't think Paul's just going off the rails and being extra restrictive here.

43:19

Jesus essentially says the same thing in Matthew chapter six. Because in Matthew chapter six, if we took time to read the whole chunk, Jesus is standing there on a hillside and he says, hey, you guys see the birds over there?

43:30

You notice how the birds always have enough food, even when they don't have little refrigerators at home in their nest to save up and to prepare for tomorrow. God always feeds the bird and look at the flowers.

43:42

God closed the flowers in more majesty and beauty than any king that has ever lived. The flowers are beautiful and God closed them and the birds are taken care of that God feeds them. So if you're looking at these things and see that God takes care of them, why are you worrying about you?

43:59

Aren't you more precious? Jesus says in Matthew 6:25, therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

44:16

Now the reason that Jesus is saying not to worry is that the same God that created the universe, the same God that spoke and stars flew out into the universe, the same God that spoke and light was made and darkness was made and the earth came into existence.

44:30

That same God is the God who feeds the birds and closed the flowers of the field and God is going to provide for the needs of his children in the same way. God is gonna provide food and shelter for all his children.

44:44

You know, the best comment on contentment that I read this week is one that I couldn't find a clear origin for it, but I read this. It said, contentment is knowing that if I'm not satisfied with what I have, I won't be satisfied with what I want either.

44:58

You can feel free to take your phone out and take a picture of that. That's good, right? That's good stuff up there. Contentment is knowing that if I'm not satisfied with what I have, I won't be satisfied with what I want either.

45:11

Discontentment always wants more. It always wants more. And we find ourselves in this trap, right? Anybody that's ever been craving the new cell phone that came out, you know what? In a year, you're gonna want another one, right?

45:24

And you get that new car and, oh, it smells like new car and there's no scratches and everything's perfect. And then all of a sudden, stuff starts to break down in a few years and I need another one.

45:34

I need the nicer one. I need the faster one. I need bigger and better, whatever it is. This house is good, but I need one that's just a little bit bigger. This job is good, but I need one that pays just a little bit more, right?

45:47

Contentment is something that has nothing to do with what is around you in your life. It has nothing to do with what you own in life. Discontentment always wants something more. It always wants something else.

46:00

It always thinks about what it doesn't have instead of focusing on the good things that it does have. Even when you get what you think you want, that home, that car, that perfect family, that vacation home, that pair of shoes, that whatever it is, whatever it may be, whatever that toy is, you soon find that you're discontent all over again because now it's not new anymore.

46:23

I don't want that one. I want another one. I want a better one. Paul is telling Timothy here is that the secret to a happy life is not getting the next thing. It's contentment with what you have. It's knowing the fact that if you know and you follow Jesus, Jesus is gonna give you everything that you need and he's not gonna give us all the extra stuff.

46:44

Maybe you don't need that. Maybe you don't need to chase after that thing. There's a lot of things that people think are necessities that are actually just trapping us in discontentment. They're actually just trapping us in that cycle, that rat race of I need more, I need more, I need better, I need more, but God is going to provide all of our necessities.

47:06

We don't have to keep chasing after stuff. There's two, I was having a conversation with somebody this past week. There's a couple of basic principles that the Bible teaches us that are gonna really set us free in the midst of all of this conversation.

47:19

We have to believe that God is in control, that God is sovereign, that everything that happens comes from God's hand. And I think the Bible pretty clearly teaches us that. We pretty clearly see that God is big and powerful and whatever happens, God's in control of it.

47:35

So if God is in control, and if God is good, if God is who he reveals himself to be, that he loves his children, that he gives us exactly what we need, exactly when we need it, if God is in control and God is good, that means whatever situation we find ourselves in in life, that means that God gave it to us and God's good, so it's exactly what we need, exactly when we needed it, right?

47:59

There may be times that we look at our circumstances in life, we go, no, no, no, I don't wanna be sick right now, I don't have time for this, I don't have time for losing my job right now, no, I need this, I need you to just take care of everything and give me everything that I want exactly when I want it.

48:13

But you know what? We will all admit hindsight's 20-20, right? And we will all acknowledge that there's times in life that we look back on something, we go, oh, now I get why that happened. Well, you know what?

48:26

God has the privilege of having hindsight 20-20 now, because God knows what's gonna happen in the future, God knows what happened in the past, and so God is gonna give us exactly what we need, exactly when we need it.

48:38

And if he's gonna give us something that shakes our world, there's a reason for that. If he's gonna cause that disease to sneak in and throw our world off guilt, gonna do it for a reason. Whatever it is that comes, if God is in control and God is good, that means that

whatever it is that comes from his hand, we can trust him, and in those things, we can be content.

49:07

We don't need to keep chasing after the next thing, we don't have to keep begging for more and begging for better and chasing after what we think we deserve. We get to just rest in what God has given us, and that is the secret that Paul tells us is the secret to a happy life.

49:23

Finally, he talks in verses nine and 10 about the trap that can steal our happiness. I think many of us are probably familiar with these verses, it's actually, it's just a familiar saying in our culture at this point, right?

49:34

That money is the root of all evil. You guys have probably heard that before. Is that what our verses say? Nope. Let me read these verses, verses nine and 10 again. It says that 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.

49:56

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pangs. Paul in these last two verses is warning this church that he loves so much, this church that he helped start.

50:11

He's warning them about this trap, because there is a trap. When we desire more, when we just need more, that desire for riches results in temptation towards evil. It's a snare, it's a trap that traps us in our greed and it traps us in our own desires.

50:30

And he says these greedy desires result in ruin and destruction in our passage. That's why Paul is warning them. He's not warning them about having money. He doesn't say anything about whether money is good or bad.

50:42

He doesn't warn them against, hey, you gotta give it all away, right? He's not warning them about money. He's warning them against the idolatrous desire to have more of it. Money itself is not the root of all kinds of evils.

50:55

Using money is not the root of all kinds of evil. Rather, it's the love of money, the craving for money, that discontentment, right? We were talking about being content and all things. Well, greed and needing more and needing more and needing, well, that's discontentment.

51:12

That's I need better, I deserve better. It's the love of money that brings forth countless kinds of evil in a person's life. What Paul's warning them here is that this craving for money can lead someone to wander away from the path that leads to hope and life and happiness.

51:28

And he's saying, hey, no, no, no, no. If you go down that path, it's a dangerous one. If you go down that path, you will never be satisfied with whatever it is that you find on that path. Because if you keep needing more and more and more, a love of money is the exact opposite of the attitude that we just said brings happiness and brings contentment and meaning and purpose in life.

51:48

Contentment and godliness lead to great gain. But discontentment and an insatiable desire for more is a trap that will never let you go. It will never let you go. He doesn't say

that it's the rich who fall into this trap, but he's saying that it's people who want to be richer than they already are that fall into this trap.

52:11

And that doesn't make a difference how much is in your bank account. You could have eight or nine or 10 zeros in your bank account, or you could have just a zero in your bank account. That doesn't make any difference.

52:24

It doesn't make any difference how much you've got in there. What the Bible condemns is people who live for money, people who wake up in the morning trying to figure out how to get a little bit more, whatever it is.

52:34

I need more, I need more, I need more, I need more. I heard one person, wealthy as can be, describing how much is ever going to be enough? How much is ever going to be enough money? When have you earned enough?

52:48

I need just a little bit more, right? That's always kind of the attitude. I just need a little bit more and that'll be enough. Money's not the root of all evil. Money is pretty neutral, in fact. Money can be used for good, money can be used for bad.

53:04

There's lots of things that money can do. It's not all good, it's not all bad. John Stott, commentator, wisely observes that this passage, he says it's not about poverty against wealth, but it's about contentment against covetousness.

53:21

It's not about wealthy or poor, it's about being content, or about needing more, more, more. Paul's warning us that the love of God and the love of money are incompatible. It's familiar, right? That same passage that I just referenced a few minutes ago from Matthew chapter six, that Jesus was talking about the birds and the flowers, right?

53:42

Well, Jesus, in that same passage in Matthew 6:24, says that no one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and he will despise the other.

53:54

You cannot serve both God and money. and discontentment or death traps. They'll never allow you to be satisfied. If you play their game, you will never, never, never find what you're looking for. Paul's laying out a clear case that seems fairly simple to me.

54:11

I know I'm simple minded and just, you know, just give me the basics, right? But it seems pretty simple to me. If you love money, stuff, you get caught in that rat race that you just need more, more, more, that's a race that you're never actually gonna win.

54:25

We actually studied that for a good chunk of last year, right? The book of Ecclesiastes, that's kinda how I would summarize the whole thing. That if you think that you're gonna find meaning and purpose in your job, in your family, in that bigger house, in that delicious food, in that whatever it is, if you build your life up on something, you know what?

54:47

It's never enough. It's a mirage. You're gonna chase after it and chase after it, and then you're gonna go to grab it and you're gonna, pfft, it's just, it's described over and over again in Ecclesiastes as vapor.

54:59

It looks like, you can see that it's there, but you go and try to grab it and it just slips through your fingers. You can't catch it. If you love money, you love stuff, you get caught in that. It's a trap.

55:12

You're never actually gonna be able to get your hands around what you're looking for. But if you place your hope in Jesus, if you find meaning and purpose in him, if you find contentment in him, whatever it is that he has given you, whatever it is that he has laid out and he invites you to, you're gonna find that godliness and contentment come with great gain.

55:33

They come with great happiness. And in a world where anxiety and depression and fear and all the fights and talking of war, all the stuff, you know, it takes about two minutes in my news app for me to feel like the world is just falling apart, right?

55:48

The world is falling apart. And in a world where all those kinds of things are prevalent, it seems to me that there's a pile of people who are just looking for the answers that Paul put just black and white right here in the middle of the page, right?

56:02

If we chase after all the stuff, if we are discontent and we need more and we need better and we just keep playing that game, we will never come out of the other side of it. There's a pile of people who are searching for answers that Paul just said, hey, it's right here.

56:17

Godliness with contentment. Just follow Jesus and say thank you for whatever it is that he gives you. You can do that. And we can live a good life. That's what a wonderful life actually is. So are you tired of playing the game?

56:33

Do you wanna keep running down that path? Do you wanna keep chasing after the next thing? Do you want the better, the better, the better? Are you tired of playing the game and continuing to realize over and over and over again that there's never any satisfaction in your pursuit of whatever it is, fill in the blank?

56:51

Or are you willing to give up, give up the race and surrender all of your ambition, all of your greed if we call it what it is? Are you willing to give up all of that and just say Jesus, we're cool, right?

57:05

I just want you, whatever it is that you give me, that's good enough. In this passage, we see this passage and one of the most familiar verses that a lot of people I think could quote, that love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

57:17

You know, we read this passage, I think it's important for us to note it's not actually about money. It's not about money, it's about your heart. You know, if you're gonna just keep grinding and keep chasing the new toy and the new thing and the new, whatever it is, you're going to be discontent.

57:34

You're going to ultimately, I think he's telling us, you're gonna be pretty miserable. But if you're content placing your faith in Jesus as the ultimate one, as your ultimate champion, as your savior, as your king and saying, no, no, it's about Jesus.

57:47

My life belongs to Jesus. What we're getting ready to do here in just a few minutes, he's gonna bring meaning and fulfillment and purpose and happiness and all those things into

your life. So I think our only question this morning is, are you gonna let Jesus be enough for you?

58:05

Are you gonna find your rest and your happiness in him? Or are you gonna keep chasing after whatever other thing it is that your life was chasing after and desiring? Is Jesus enough? Are you gonna let him be enough?

58:15

Or is there something else that you still need? Our prayer team is gonna be down here at the end of the service. They would love to pray with you after we're done. We also have a prayer wall back there in the hallway.

58:24

Maybe you're too shy to come up here and pray with somebody, but you want us to pray for you in our prayer meeting on Monday night. So write that down on a slip of paper. You can drop it in the box back there.

58:34

They would love to pray for you as well. But in just a minute, I'm gonna pray and we're gonna invite the worship team to come up. They're gonna sing a couple of songs and just a reminder of what Mia told us a minute ago.

58:46

So we've got baptism after the two songs. So normally we sing a song and you guys go home, right? This week we've got baptism. I wanna encourage you to stick around. It's gonna be meaningful. So we have got our children's classes are getting ready to come down and kinda dismiss the horde of children back into the sanctuary.

59:04

So if you sent kids out, you have to take them back when they come back in. So be on the lookout for your kids. If you've got a little one that's in nursery, a baby or a toddler one that's in this downstairs classroom that you checked them in, please go grab them.

59:18

We've got two songs, it's about 10 minutes that you'll be able to go check out your kids and then come back in here so that we can all worship together. We wanna make sure that everybody can be in here at the same time.

59:27

So we're gonna jump into baptism in just a minute, but let me pray for us before we do. Would you guys pray with me? God, we thank you for your word. We thank you for, God, just for this beautiful reminder that I think all of us need.

59:42

God, we live in a culture and a context where we need to be so just regularly reminded of the need, the importance of contentment because we live in a world where we are being constantly told to be discontent.

59:54

The advertisers want us to know, no, no, no, there's a better phone, there's a better car, there's a better situation that you need to go buy this thing or live this way. Go to this place. They want us to be discontent, but God, Paul is telling us that discontentment is a trap that we will never be able to get out of.

01:00:13

It's quicksand that we just, no matter how much we fight and fight and fight, we will just continue to fall deeper and deeper and deeper. But God, we're thankful that, God, that you offer a better way.

01:00:28

God, that you sent Jesus to come and to make a way for us to know you and for us to know what the kingdom of God is like. God, that we can be adopted in as your son or your daughter if we place our faith in Jesus and Jesus alone for our salvation.

01:00:43

And so God, as we're about to celebrate that and to observe six people that have said, I have decided to follow Jesus. God, I pray that you would use this time to fill our hearts with just a reminder, a beautiful reminder of just how good you are to us.

01:01:02

What a blessing it is for us to be a part of your work in the world. And God, for what a blessing it is for us to have your work in us if we have placed our faith in you. God, we thank you for the contentment that is found only in you.

01:01:16

And we pray that you would help us to hold on to that and to live in the way that you've invited us to live. God, we love you. We thank you for loving us. It's in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.