

Study Guide for August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006: Money & Possessions. I Timothy 6:3-10, 17-19.

Introduction: Who do you know that demonstrated contentment with respect to money or possessions? Did he/she have much or little compared to you? What was their secret?

I. Exposing the False Teachers. (I Timothy 6:3-5)

- A. How does Paul describe the false teachers here? (Compare with 1:3-7 & 4:1-5)
- B. List and briefly define the results of the influence of the false teachers. (vs. 4-5)
- C. What does Paul identify as the underlying cause and motive of the false teachers?
- D. What is the antidote to false teaching? What positive qualities (the opposite of vs. 4-5) should we expect to find in a church where sound instruction is the norm?

II. Encouraging the Poor. (I Timothy 6:6-10)

- A. Paul says, “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” In what sense is this true?
- B. Compare vs. 7 with Job 1:21 and Eccles 5:13-15 then summarize the main idea.
- C. Paul states that if we have food and clothing (covering which includes shelter), we will be content with that. How do you differentiate between needs and wants?
- D. Consider Paul’s words in vs. 9. Describe the downward progression and illustrate.
- E. What is the antidote to the love of money? What positive qualities result when people resist the evil that arises from being driven by greed and envy?

III. Exhorting the Rich. (I Timothy 6:17-19)

- A. Who is being addressed in this section? What are they warned against?
- B. In what sense is wealth an uncertain source of hope? (see Pr. 23:5 & Matt. 6:19)
- C. If our hope and security are not found in wealth, where is it to be placed?
- D. What positive commands does Paul tell Timothy to give the rich?
- E. What is the result of being generous and willing to share (see Mt. 6:20-21)?
- F. What is the antidote to the pride and self-confidence so often associated with wealth? How can you learn the secret of contentment (Philip. 4:12)?