

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

**Date** : 25 October 2020

**Sermon Title** : Contentment

**Speaker** : Rev John Foo

**Text** : 1 Timothy 6:6-11

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1 Timothy 6:10 is often misquoted as, “money is the root of all evil.” This mistakenly makes many people think that Christians regard money as evil. This way of thinking is not helpful as Christians too need money to live and they are also placed in a materialistic culture. What God’s word actually says is that, “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” (1 Tim 6:10, NIV) This means that if we do not keep our attitude towards money or possession in check, it can cause us many problems.

## **Our attitude towards money or possession - materialism**

- A harsher word for ‘*materialistic*’ is “*greedy*.” Having a materialistic attitude makes us think we do not have enough money or possession, and we will never be satisfied because we will always need to have more. (Ecclesiastes 5:10)
- This attitude towards money is present even among Christians because many may think that money or possession is the passport to happiness and security as it can provide us with all our needs and wants. We think that with more money or possession we will not need to worry, and so can sit back and enjoy life, doing all the things we always wanted to do.

We may think that having a little bit more money does not hurt, and that is probably true, but the problem here is not with having a little bit more money. Problems happen with wanting that little bit more, and a little bit more, and a little bit more, with no end in sight.

## **Problems faced when we love money (v.9-10)**

God understands our fallen humanity clearly and highlights two problems when we love money a little too much:

- The greed for more money can cause us to make bad decisions such as in our investments and spending. (v.9) The greater the greed (i.e. a bigger urge to buy something we do not need), the greater the risk we are willing to take.

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*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

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- Besides bringing grief and sorrow, the love for money can also cause Christians to backslide and wander away from their faith. (v.10) Materialism and the love of money - at best it can sidetrack us, and at worst it can destroy us.

It is not that money is bad. It is bad when money is not properly handled or used. When we love money more than anything else, it can create havoc in our lives, giving us problems. Just like food, it is good but too much food can cause health problems.

## **Be content with what we have (v.8)**

To be content, we need to ask ourselves 2 questions:

### 1) *“Can I live without more?”*

To control greed, we have to let go of our cravings for more money or possessions and be able to live without the need to add more to what we already have.

### 2) *“Can I live with less?”*

This question asks if we can cut down from what we are already living with, by simplifying our lifestyle so we can trim and downsize from our current living expenses.

- a) **We need godliness and contentment (v.6)** – To guard ourselves from greed because real life is not measured by how much we own. (Luke 12:15) To be content is a choice we make to be satisfied with what we have and not go for what we do not have.

- We cannot attain godliness without practicing contentment. How can we go for godliness if we are always discontented with our lives? Godliness is bolstered by contentment, and contentment is rewarded with godliness. Having both godliness and contentment is great gain to us.

- b) **We need to flee from the “desire to have more” money/possession (v.11a)**  
Greed means “me” – it makes us love ourselves, think of ourselves and satisfy our needs. Greed cuts us off as we fail to look at others’ needs and to extend help; Paul says to flee from these things.

- There are some things we are told to stand and confront, and others that we are to flee from, and this is one we should flee from because God knows our human nature will succumb to this temptation of greed.

- c) **We need to put in effort to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness (v.11b)** – These are virtues that money cannot buy but these are qualities we have to actively pursue.

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- Paul is telling us to shift our focus from money to God and greed to contentment so as not to be consumed with greed. Instead, be contented with what we have. Money seems to promise a lot but never delivers; only God promises and delivers.

God wants us to learn to be content with what we have, especially during this period of Covid-19 pandemic where many lives have been disrupted with some being retrenched or having pay cut. Use this opportunity to take stock of our lives, and ask ourselves if we can live without more or if we can live on less.

Those who have more than enough to spend are encouraged to help those who do not have. (vv.17-19) Do not hoard the money as we can live without more and also live with less. Look around us as there are people in need of our help.

## **CONCLUSION**

There are better things in life than money that we can pursue. Sometimes we lose our focus. We focus on transient things of this world that will never last beyond eternity. Instead, we should seek God's help to pursue the things that matter to Him so that we can shift our focus from money to God, and from greed to contentment.

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As a group, spend some time to share your success and struggle in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do at the previous meeting.

## **A. Review Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Reflect on one key takeaway.***

Appoint someone to read 1 Timothy 6:6-11 twice, slowly.

1. At the end of the reading, the reader will say, 'This is the Word of the Lord.'

All to respond, "Thanks be to God." Our response reminds us that this is the Word of the Lord. Just as God had spoken to His people in the past, He is still speaking to us even today, right now."

- a.
  - (i) As God's word was read, which verse speaks to you the most?
  - (ii) What is the key takeaway for you from the sermon "Contentment"?

- b. How will you align the way you live to your key takeaway?

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## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

- 2a. Why should Christians not have a materialistic (greedy) attitude towards money and possession?
- 2b. (i) What are some ways you can flee from “the desire to have more” money or possession?  
  
(ii) Why must you flee instead of stand and confront?
- 2c. How does pursuing godliness help us to be content and how does being content help us to be more godly?
  
- 3a. What are some struggles you face in this materialistic culture we live in?
- 3b. What is one thing you can do to:
  - (i) live without more?
  - (ii) live with less?
- 3c. How can your group members encourage or help you overcome 3a, and achieve 3b above, for the next week(s) until your next meeting?

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## **C. Testimonies and Prayer**

***Purpose: Give glory to God and seek Him.***

4. Share an incident where, with God's strength, you made a good decision not to be greedy for more money/possession by shifting your focus:

(i) from money to God

or

(ii) from greed to contentment

OR

Give thanks to God for helping you to cut down on your own spending so that you can share with those in need.

5. Bring all that have been shared in 3a, 3b and 3c to God, asking for His Holy Spirit to enable you to follow through what you and your group have committed to do in the following week(s) until your next meeting.

With your accountability partner(s), make a commitment to turn your focus in life, from money to God and greed to contentment.

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