

## **“MANAGING YOUR EXPENSES”**

### **Balanced: Gaining & Maintaining Financial Stability , Part 5**

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Discontentment – “The dissatisfaction that I have with what I have.”

Awareness is what fuels discontentment; you were fine until you knew (were made aware) there was “another” one

In the “old days” people replaced things; today we upgrade things

Appetites are never fully and finally satisfied

It seems the way to satisfy an appetite is by feeding it; however, it just gets bigger

The more you get, the more you want; appetites only shrink by depriving it

Discontentment is usually seen as a negative; however, it can be used for good

### **A Good “Discontentment”**

1 Timothy 6:6 (NIV) “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

If great gain is only about stuff, that means when we die, we gained nothing

1 Timothy 6:7 (NIV) “For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.”

1 Timothy 6:8 (NIV) “But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”

Most will say, we were the most content when we had the least amount of stuff

1 Timothy 6:9 (NIV) “People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap...”

If your orientation in life is turned toward more, eventually you step into a trap

1 Timothy 6:9 (NIV) “... and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.”

Discontentment is dangerous; the only thing that saves us is awareness

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV) “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

Discontentment can wreck your relationships - even your relationship with God

1 Timothy 6:11 (NIV) “But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”

To change your direction, you must change what you pursue. God says I want you to become less aware of something & more aware of something else

### Practical Application

1 Timothy 6:18 (NIV) "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

When you redirect your pursuit, your dissatisfaction & discontentment will change as well

The problem with buying new things is we're less likely to share them

1 Timothy 6:19 (NIV) "In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

When you come to the place where you realize "the less I have the more content I am," you begin to take hold of life that is truly life

Awareness drives our spending

When you become aware of what other people need, you become less driven by what you don't have

Fall in love with the pursuit of God and live that out by doing good things for people who need good things done for them and by being generous to people

When there is a collision of this kind of awareness over time, God changes your heart

You have an opportunity to partner with God in the world and at the end of the day realize that's really life, that's really gain

### Questions to Ponder

1. What fuels your discontent?
2. What do you need to become less aware of?
3. What can you do this week to become more aware of what other's don't have?
4. What should you become more discontent over in your life?

Godliness combined with contentment is the only real gain

### My Next Step Today Is:

- I will spend time this week thinking about the four "Questions to Ponder"
- I want to be involved in a ministry once a month that serves our community
- I will memorize 1 Timothy 6:6
- I plan to attend Class 101 this Sat, Nov 21 at 9 AM