



# The Secret of True Riches

1 Timothy 6:3-20

## Introduction

Paul approaches the end of his letter to his young friends Timothy, a son in the faith and an overseer in the Ephesian church.

Paul knew of Timothy's natural timidity (2 Tim 1:7) and how difficult Timothy was finding leading the church in Ephesus. He was struggling with relationship problems and false teachers who were leading people off-track in their walk with Jesus. Things were so bad that Paul had to urge Timothy to stay and make a stand – to battle for the heart of the church and true faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

As Paul concludes, he again returns to his main theme – refuting false teachers (1 Tim 6:3-5) – and this time focused in on the issue of money and motives in ministry. He contrasts the pursuit of riches with the pursuit of godliness and questions the motives of some who 'think that godliness is a means to financial gain'.

So Paul comes right to the heart of the matter...the matter of the heart! Jesus said in Luke 16:13 that it is impossible to serve both God and money. Paul takes up this theme by pointing out that 'some people,



eager for money, have wandered from the faith'. The dangers are clear.

God isn't opposed to wealth. Paul isn't saying (in verse 10) that money is evil; he is merely pointing out the temptations and potential pitfalls that can accompany wealth. God is also not impressed by wealth. What is far more important in God's eyes is how we use our money - that the overflow of our hearts issues in contentment with what we have and generosity to God and others.

Instead of loving people and using money – as God intended – many people love money and use people. This closing passage in 1 Timothy is God's corrective to this attitude infecting His Church.

## Life Group questions...

- 1. Read verses 6-8. Compare these verses to Philippians 4:11-13 and Hebrews 13:5. What is the secret of being 'content' as a Christian?**
- 2. What are some of the things that stop people feeling content?**
- 3. In verse 10, Paul says that 'the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil'? Is he saying that money is evil? Why is it wrong to love money?**
- 4. Is there any connection between what Jesus says in Matthew 6:31-33 and what Paul says to Timothy in verse 11? What lessons can this teach us in our walk with God today?**
- 5. Read verse 17. With so many people wanting to 'get rich quick' and dreaming of winning the lottery, why do you think Paul says it wrong to put our hope in wealth?**
- 6. In verse 18, Paul talks about being generous. Why is generosity important to God? What can hinder us in being generous?**
- 7. Read verse 19. Compare this to Matthew 6:19-21. What are the lessons from these verses for us?**