

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

**Be Content!**

**1 Timothy 6:1-10**

Lesson 9

Just as it was in Paul's time, there are those in our society today who believe that godliness should bring them material gain which in return will bring them contentment. However, Paul taught the exact opposite of this line of thinking. He told the church at Ephesus that true gain lies in godliness with contentment. In other words, God knows just what you need! If more stuff in your life would distract you from Him, He knows you don't really need it and therefore, He withholds it. We can trust that He knows what is good for us and, as Psalm 84:11 clearly states, there is no good thing that God will withhold from those who walk uprightly.

For those who follow the Lord, contentment is not optional. Scripture actually commands us to be content. The word contentment found in this week's passage literally means "an inner sufficiency that keeps us at peace in spite of outward circumstances." True contentment can only come from an internal work in the heart and never results from the external acquiring of things. If we go looking for it in money, personal possessions, health or anything else, we will quickly find out they are all empty.

We find it hard to be content because our consumer culture feeds our appetite for more and more material things. Settle it in your heart that God is enough! Let this lesson challenge you to take an honest look at your spending habits. Give the Holy Spirit permission to reign in your shopping and the things you spend your money on. Pray that He will help you to resist the lie that true happiness can be found in the things of this world. Ask Him to help you to have an eternal perspective and to hold loosely the things of this life.

**Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer**

**This Week's Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:1-10**

*“Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. <sup>2</sup>And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things. <sup>3</sup>If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, <sup>4</sup>he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup>useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. <sup>6</sup>Now godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup>And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. <sup>9</sup>But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” NKJV*

**This Week's Memory Verse:**

***“Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”***  
**1 Timothy 6:6**

In Jesus' time, the term bondservant most often referred to a person who willingly took a permanent position of service to another. As believers, we are called to live as bondservants of Christ by serving Him and giving ourselves completely over to His will. While He alone is our Lord and Master, He has appointed authority figures in each of our lives, including our employers to whom we are to submit.

1. According to verses 1-2 of this week's passage, what attitude should Christians have towards their employers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a. Why are we to respond to unbelieving employers in this manner? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. Why are we to respond to believing employers in this manner? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“There is no work better than another to please God; to pour water, to wash dishes, to be a cobbler, or an apostle, all is one; to wash dishes and to preach is all one, as touching as the deed, to please God.”*

*– William Tyndale (1494–1536)*

2. Verses 4-5 of this week’s scripture describe those who do not adhere to wholesome teaching. Read these verses and give a brief explanation of each description below as you understand it.

a. Proud: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Knowing nothing: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Obsessed with disputes and arguments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. Envious: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e. Strife: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

f. Reviling: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

g. Evil suspicions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

h. Useless wranglings: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

i. Destitute of the truth: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

j. Who suppose that godliness is a means of gain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

k. How are we to treat these people? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“If a man is called to be a streetsweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great streetsweeper who did his job well.”*

*– Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)*

3. According to verse 6 of this week’s scripture, what is great gain? \_\_\_\_\_

a. What does Philippians 4:11-12 say about this subject? \_\_\_\_\_

**Group Discussion**

Are you able to speak the same words as the Apostle Paul did about contentment? Paul finishes his statement in Philippians 4:13 by saying, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Do you believe this and how are you living it out? \_\_\_\_\_

4. We are warned in verse 10 of this week’s passage that the “love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” Read the account of the rich young ruler found in Mark 10:17-27 and ask yourself if you can be content with what God has given you or will you risk being pierced through with many sorrows? Write your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_



