

# Sermon Notes

## The secret of contentment

### The Bible Reading

#### 1 Timothy 6:6-19

<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

<sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

<sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup> to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone is immortal and who lives in

unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

<sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> 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. (NIV)

### A prayer

Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me about you from your Word. Help me and others to see the wisdom and value of living life according to your word the Bible; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

### The Bible Study

#### Questions:

#### Read 1 Timothy 6:6-19

1. Would you describe yourself as 'content'? How do you think you would react if you had only food, clothing and shelter? How would what Paul says help?

2. What are the perils of covetousness and wealth?
3. What is wrong with the statement that 'Money is the root of all evil'? Why is it important to hold on to what Paul really said?
4. In practical terms, how is it possible to avoid austerity on the one hand and extravagance on the other?
5. What are Paul's positive instructions about wealth? How do they apply to you?
6. If someone had access to your bank statement, would they think these verses should be an encouragement to you or a challenge to you, or both? Why?
7. What will it look like for you to live out the truths of verses 18–19?