

# Pitfalls to Prosperity

I Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19

## Introduction:

- A. Prosperity dangerous, so is poverty. (Prov. 30:8,9).
  - 1. Poor not to make money goal. (1 Tim. 6:6-10).
  - 2. Rich not to trust wealth. (1 Tim. 6:17-18).
- B. Prosperity can be a blessing (3 John 2), but few let it be so.
  - 1. Often brings social problems: Lawlessness, discontent, permissiveness.
  - 2. Often brings personal problems: Envy, hatred, emulations, etc.
  - 3. Often bring over-dependance on money. Think it solves all, like Simon.
- C. Prosperity brings us face to face with many temptations:

## Discussion:

### **II. The Temptation To Measure Success In Dollars And Cents. Vs. 5,6**

- A. Successful with or without it.
  - 1. Without it. (vs. 7,8; Lk. 9:59; 1 Cor. 4:10-13).
  - 2. With it. (vs. 18, 19 Abraham, Joseph of Armathea)
- B. Failure with or without it.
  - 1. With it. (Rev. 3:17; Luke 12:16-21; Mk. 8:36).
  - 2. Without it - may be due to laziness and carelessness. (1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thess 3:10).

### **III. The Temptation To Think Of Real Needs In Economic Terms. (cf. Lk. 12:15)**

- A. Think better things make better people.
  - 1. Social gospel concept.
  - 2. Gospel makes better people regardless to economics. (cf. I Cor. 6:9-11).
- B. Think "better than we had" make children better.
  - 1. Spend fortune for better education, recreation, etc.
  - 2. Spend hours wondering why not appreciated. - Did not address real needs.

### **IV. The Temptation To Purchase Honor With Our Donations. (Mt. 6:1-4)**

- A. Think of self as great benefactor. (cf. 1 Cor. 13:3).
- B. Forget than giver should be real beneficiary. (Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:16; Phil. 4:11-13,17).
  - 1. Give because we need it.
  - 2. God needs nothing from us.
  - 3. God can supply others needs without us.

### **V. The Temptation To Substitute Dollars For Deeds. v. 18**

- A. In the home: Buy child rearing, substitute money for hospitality.
- B. In the community: Send check, flowers, etc. rather than personal care, etc. (cf. Matt. 25:42-45; Jas. 1:27).
- C. In the church: Pay preacher to do OUR work, OUR studying, etc.
  - 1. Miss the point. Christians work for personal developement, not just to get job done.
  - 2. Must first give selves, then money. (2 Cor. 8:5).
  - 3. Must get involved personally. (Rom. 12:10-15).

## Conclusion:

- A. Let us thank God for material blessings and pray for wisdom to us them.
- B. Let us trust God, not in money for security and salvation.