

1 Timothy 6:3-10

3,4 These false teachers will always be among us. Just like the false teachers of that day they will major on controversial subjects, overemphasize individual words. How can you tell them from someone who just wants to keep the Gospel pure? Mt 7:20 You will know them by their fruits. The fruit they will bear is listed here: envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions... 2Tim 4:3

5 They are competing with others like themselves seeking the financial support of the church for their "special insight and understanding". Another possible interpretation is prosperity Gospel teaching. This type of false teacher usually thinks he has some great wisdom that puts him above the others. Titus 1:15,16

6 Godliness does make you wealthy in the true sense of the word. Wealth in the love of God and fellow man is wealth of incomparable value. This is a wealth that brings peace to the heart and mind – contentment with what God has for you, knowing He only gives good things to his children. What does your heart consider great gain? Wealth, success, pleasures or godliness with contentment?

7 What good is it if we die with millions of little pieces of paper that have 100 written on them, or rocks that sparkle, or buildings we will no longer use? No U-hauls behind a Hurst. Paul is pointing to the lasting value of the spiritual as opposed to the temporal condition of worldly things. Luke 12:16-21

8 Notice shelter is not required. Jesus had none. His heavenly Father did provide his food and clothes and He will provide the same for us. That should be all that I required for us to be content physically. How far the US is from that simple life. We would add, a wardrobe, a side by side refrigerator, a six figure income, a home free and clear, a late model car, a few toys like a boat and jet ski, a Ken or Barby wife or husband, vacations, and on and on. There is nothing wrong with any of those things. But are those the things we see as great gain? If so we have deceived ourselves. Prov 30:8,9

9 To run after financial wealth is to run into temptation and a trap – to jump into foolish and harmful desires that will destroy you. We are told in this very letter to provide for our families. That is different from wanting to get rich.

10 Ps 16:4 It is not the money – but the love of it that is evil. It leads us away from the faith and causes us to stab ourselves with grief. It is a root that shoots out vines of various kinds of evil: compromise to get ahead, theft, lust, alcoholism, family neglect, and on and on. Consider a casino and the conditions inside. There you can witness the love of money and its results in the life of man.