

1. How would you define “contentment”? What does it mean to be content?
2. Do you think that most people today are content? Why or why not?
3. What about yourself, are you content?

### **What Motivates Us - verses 3-6**

1. What was the motivation of the “wannabe” leaders and teachers in the Ephesian church?
2. How does Paul describe the results of their self-focused motivation?
3. Is it possible to look at the relationships of a congregation and to discern the heart focus of the membership?
4. What do you think the relationships at Creekside indicate about our heart focus?

### **Four Principles of Contentment - verses 7-11**

#### **1. You can't take it with you - verse 7**

- 1) What is Paul's point in verse 7?
- 2) In Luke 12:16-21 what is Jesus saying about the permanence of wealth and the focus of our lives?
- 3) In Matthew 6:19-21 how can we tell where our heart is focused?
- 4) How can understanding Paul's truth in verse 7 lead to contentment?

#### **2. God takes care of His own - verse 8**

- 1) In Matthew 6:25-32 what does Jesus say concerning God's care for us?
- 2) How can this realization lead to contentment?
- 3) These days, what does living according to this truth look like in your life?

#### **3. You can't buy happiness - verses 9,10**

- 1) What is the temptation that Paul is writing of in verse 9?
- 2) Are there other ways, than desiring to be rich, to fall into this temptation?
- 3) How can we avoid being trapped by this temptation?
- 4) In verse 10, what is the root of all sorts of evil?
- 5) What might this look like in the day-to-day of where we live our lives?
- 6) Consider James 5:1-6 and Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25:31-46 (especially verse 45). What effect does our financial stewardship have on us? On others?

#### **4. Chose to Pursue God - verse 11**

- 1) In verse 11, what does Paul tell Timothy?
- 2) What does it mean to “flee” and “pursue”?
- 3) What Godly characteristics is Timothy to pursue? How would you describe each of these?
- 4) In Matthew 6:33,34, what does Jesus say that we should seek? Why?
- 5) How can the pursuit of Godly character and the Kingdom of God lead to contentment?
- 6) These days what does “fleeing” look like for you?
- 7) These days what does “pursuing” look like for you?

### **Extra Credit**

1. The opposite of contentment is covetousness. True or False? Why or why not?
2. How are both contentment and covetousness related to our relationship with God?
3. How might Paul's instructions to Timothy help us to be satisfied with what God has given us (in comparison with others)?
4. How does our contentment with God's blessing and plan for our lives display the glory of God to those around us?