"Life That is Truly Life"
True Riches #5

INTRODUCTION
The Bible contrasts what we typically think of as "riches" with what God considers of lasting value. Wealth itself is not good or bad, but without a proper perspective, it can become our downfall. In this study we will consider how to develop and maintain a godly perspective regarding wealth and material possessions so that we have lasting riches.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)
What is the most expensive item you have ever been given?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Compelled by Love
Q1. Read Matthew 22:37–40; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 John 3:16-17
What we love and pursue determines the direction and the fruit of our lives. How did Jesus summarize all that the law and the prophets had taught (Matthew 22:40)? God's love for us is what compels us to love Him and live for others rather than ourselves. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15) What is the visible demonstration that God's love is truly in us? (1 John 3:16-17) Is there someone you know that demonstrates God's love in this way?

Radical Contentment
Q2. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Philippians 4:11-13
True contentment can be seen in a life lived in simplicity and gratitude. Paul told Timothy that godliness with contentment was in fact "great gain". In 1 Timothy 6:7-8 he gives us perspective on the brevity of the time we have on earth, and how minimal our true "needs" are. What was Paul's secret to remaining content in all things? (Philippians 4:13) What are some circumstances you are currently in that require God's strength to see you through them "contentedly"? Add them to your group's prayer requests.

Extravagant Generosity
Q3. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 6:20, 25:40
If you are blessed with material wealth, God has strong warnings for you. See 1Timothy 6:17-18. There is a natural progression in this passage from putting our hope in God, to being generous, to storing treasures in heaven and ultimately possessing "true life." How does putting our hope in wealth undermine this process of obtaining true life? The generosity God seeks is a natural consequence of knowing and trusting God with all He has given us. How does Paul describe Him in 1 Timothy 6:17? How does seeing God as our provider in this way make us into the cheerful giver described in 2 Corinthians 9:7?

Contagious (Infectious) Joy
Q4. Read Romans 14:17; Psalm 16:11
A life lived for God is a life of joy, because God is with us. How did Paul characterize the kingdom of God in Romans 14:17? David said in the Psalms, the path of true life has been made know to us and we are filled with joy when we follow that path and remain in God's presence. What are some practical steps we should take to remain on the path God has shown us concerning how we view and use our wealth?

WRAP-UP
Living a life that is vibrant and full begins with knowing and loving God. When we have a solid hope in Him, rather than in our own wealth, we can eliminate many of sources of anxiety, and our fear of losing those material things that are uncertain and do not last. With a godly perspective, we can find contentment in God's provision for our true needs, and for our enjoyment. When God, not wealth, is the source of our security, we can be freely and extravagantly generous. And when we give to those in need, we lay up for ourselves treasure in heaven, and take hold of life that is truly life. As a result, we will display an infectious joy that can only come from God's presence in our lives.

Memory Verse
But godliness with contentment is great gain. *1 Timothy 6:6 NIV*

PRAYER (20 MIN)
Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:_____
Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)_____
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Challenge
Discuss with your group the possibility of blessing some one, or some ministry, with a material gift (money, clothing, food…)

Q1
Matthew 22:37–40 NIV
37 Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NIV - 14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

1 John 3:16-17 NIV - 16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

Q2
1 Timothy 6:6-8 NIV - 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Philippians 4:11-13 NIV - 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Q3
1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV - 17 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. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 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.

2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV - 7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Matthew 6:20 NIV - 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 25:40 NIV - 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Q4
Romans 14:17 NIV - 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

Psalm 16:11 NIV - 11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Prayer requests con’t _____

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