

Sermon Discussion Questions – May 26, 2024

“Life Prosperity or Lifestyle Prosperity?”

Jeremiah 45; Matthew 7:13-14; Galatians 5:16-18; Ephesians 2:1-3; Philippians 4:10-13

1 Timothy 6:6-10; Hebrews 13: 5-6

Starter: How strong was the desire for lifestyle prosperity in your home when growing up?

Understanding Lifestyle Prosperity

1. Have someone read 1 Timothy 6:9-10. Share examples of people you know whose craving for lifestyle prosperity has “pierced them with many pangs”.
2. How does lifestyle prosperity promise to provide contentment? What are its outcomes?

Understanding Life Prosperity

3. In 1 Timothy 6:6 Paul says there is great gain in godliness with contentment. How do you think godliness and contentment go together? How does keeping your life free from the love of money fit into this (Hebrews 13:5)?
4. According to Ephesians 2:1-3 and Galatians 5:16-18 why is taking the “narrow gate” hard? At the same time, how does it lead to contentment?
5. Reflecting on the case study of Baruch in Jeremiah 45 – though he had verbally expressed his grief to God and Jeremiah, why do you think he had remained silent about his ambition (seeking great things for himself)?
 - How was Baruch’s desire for “great things” getting in the way of him accomplishing God’s will? How would it keep him from experiencing contentment?
 - Has God ever convicted you of wrong or improper motives?
6. Describe some ways Paul learned contentment.
7. Why is contentment something we learn experientially rather than just through cognitive understanding? Share how God has taught you something either through being “brought low” or from “abounding”.
8. Bob closed his sermon by asking two questions. Consider pondering them together:
 - Has the pattern of my life been one of seeking lifestyle prosperity or life prosperity?
 - What caused me to be discontent? Why?