

Introduction: "A Scouting Report" (4 Questions)

⁵*"False teachers produce . . . men of corrupt minds, who have been robbed of the truth and think that godliness is a means to financial gain.*

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

⁹*People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.*

¹⁰*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."*

1Timothy 6:5-10 (NIV)

1. **Who** is our foe?
2. **How** formidable is our foe?
3. **What** are his tactics?
4. **Where** are we vulnerable to attack?

Question:

How can we break greed's grip on our lives?

Answer:

The Philippian Model (Philippians 4:14-18)

4 Principles - 4 Practices

Context: Phil 4:10-13

- Step #1: Develop Personal Compassion - How?
 - **By putting other's needs ahead of our wants.**

¹⁴“Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;”

Philippians 4:14-15 (NIV)

- Step #2: Develop A Generous Spirit - How?

- **By releasing the very thing that has power to consume us.**

¹⁶“ . . .for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.”

Philippians 4:16 (NIV)

- Step #3: Develop An Eternal Perspective - How?

- **By understanding the inseparable relationship between our money and authentic worship.**

¹⁷“Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. ¹⁸I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.”

Philippians 4:17-18 (NIV)

Conclusion: “Scouting Recommendations” (4 Commands)

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.

¹⁸Command them **to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.** ¹⁹In 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).”

I Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

Personal Application and Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the "scouting report" on contentment's greatest competitor. What makes him such a formidable foe?
2. The theme of the book of Philippians is joy. Discuss why the Philippian model (4:14-18) might produce joy and contentment.
3. Discuss whether greed delivers on its promise to make us happy.
4. Share honestly an area in which greed has crept into your heart and thinking.
5. What practical steps are you going to take to follow the Philippian model toward contentment?