

## Warning: The Silent Assassin

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

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

<sup>9</sup>*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.*

<sup>10</sup>*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 \_\_\_\_\_ grip on our lives?

**Answer:**

The Philippian Model

Philippians 4:14-18

**Context:**

*I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.*

Philippians 4:10-13 (NIV)

**Step #1: Develop personal compassion -**

➤ Put other's \_\_\_\_\_ ahead of our \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>14</sup>Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup>Moreover, 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 -**

- \_\_\_\_\_ the very thing that has power to \_\_\_\_\_ us.

*<sup>16</sup> ... 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 -**

- Understand the inseparable relationship between our \_\_\_\_\_ and authentic \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>17</sup>Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup>I 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)

**Choose the path to a happy life**

*<sup>17</sup>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.*

*<sup>18</sup>Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>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.*

I Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

**Application: Your next steps...**

- Look around... and respond: \_\_\_\_\_!
- Look within... and release: \_\_\_\_\_!
- Look up... and rejoice: \_\_\_\_\_!

**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 produces joy and contentment and happiness even in adversity.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Discuss candidly whether greed delivers on its promise to make us happy. How much is really enough?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Share honestly an area in which greed has crept into your heart and thinking.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What practical steps are you going to take this week to follow the Philippian model of a happy and contented life?