

Opportunities in America

- Place where hard work, integrity, and honesty often bring great success.
- What about Jesus' warning about greed?
- Difference between ambition and greed?
- Difference between success and greed?
- How do we draw a line between the upward mobility of our American culture and the contentment with what we have?

A Lurking Danger Today

- *And He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." Lk. 12:15-16*



How Do We Define Greed?

- We see greed in fictional characters like Scrooge or Midas.
- Losing huge sums of money in gambling
- Using credit cards until bankrupt.
- But those are the extremes.
- Where is the line actually crossed?
- Have we been greedy in our purchases?

Trust in God Removes the Danger

- *Be free from the love of money; content with such things as you have: for He Himself has said, I will in no wise fail you, neither will I in any wise forsake you. Heb 13:5*

The Truth that Makes Free

- ❑ “content” does not harmonize with our culture.
 - ❑ “a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed, a mind contented with its lot.”
 - ❑ Our economy based on “planned obsolescence,”
 - ❑ purchases are designed to be obsolete and needing replacement within the next few years.
 - ❑ Planned and built in “discontentment.”
 - ❑ Are ambition or the rewards of hard work and success condemned as covetousness
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Every Form of Greed

- Advertisers motivate us to buy new tech,
- Are our upgrades need or greed?
- Is it really time to get a new TV, cell phone, computer?
- Or do we just want one?
- Should we drive a car until it quits running or buy a new one every year?
- Our prosperity makes it difficult to see

We Are Rich – Our Concerns

- *“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.
1Tim. 6:17-19*
- Are we arrogant?
- Are our hopes fixed on retirement income?
- Does our money have no impacts on our faith in God?

We Are Rich – Our Concerns

- *18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”*
1Tim. 6:17-19
- How much good are we doing? Rich in good works? Generous and ready to Share?
- These are the real questions, and their answers tell us a lot about ourselves

Choose: God or Mammon(Wealth)

- *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will **hate** the one and **love** the other, or else he will be **loyal**(**hold to** NASB; **devoted to**) the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Mt. 6:24-25*
- Our goals and plans are based on our master.
- Loyalty and service will go to God or money?
- Holding fast and despising the one or the other.

The Consequences are Grave

- *But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 1 Tim 6:9-10*



- When Dorcus died, all the widows spoke of her good works which she did for them.
- Would anyone feel that we would be a real loss to the church because of our selfless giving not only of money, but time?
- Best defense against greed is a good offense.



- When we are rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate and laying up a good foundation against the time to come, we are not covetous no matter what we have.
- If we are selfish and miserly, we are covetous no matter how little we have. The choice is ours, but the consequences are in the hands of God.