

## Introduction: “A scouting report”

<sup>5</sup>*[False teachers produce men] of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who 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)

## Four Questions:

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

### Three Principles – Three Practices:

**Context:**

Philippians 4:10-13

- **Step #1: Develop** \_\_\_\_\_ – How?

➤ By putting others' needs ahead of our wants.

*<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** \_\_\_\_\_ – How?

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

*<sup>16</sup> ...for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need.*

Philippians 4:16 (NIV)

- **Step #3: Develop an** \_\_\_\_\_ – How?

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

*<sup>17</sup> Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment and have more than enough. 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”**

*<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.*

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

**Four Commands:**

1. Put your \_\_\_\_\_ in God.
2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in good deeds.
3. Be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Be willing to \_\_\_\_\_.

## 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 personal peace.
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 personal peace?