

# From the Family Room

May 24, 2015

*The Church of Christ at Creekwood  
Mobile, AL*



*Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.*

3 John 2

Many people this time of the year are thinking about success. High school and college graduates have achieved a measure of success and look forward to more success in the future. But what is ultimate success? In our society today, many define success in material terms. Some define success as a luxury car, a big boat, a decked out pickup truck, or a big house. Some people define success as a corner office with a window. This is shallow thinking and leads us to inaccurately defining success.

Each of us needs to define success properly in our individual life. Paul addresses prosperity and success in I Timothy 6:5-10, 17-19. In writing to Timothy, Paul advises him of the following regarding success in life.

1. **Hold the right view of life** (vv.6,7,8). Godliness added to contentment equals success. "Things" do not equal success. We must not hold onto "things." One day we will turn loose of all things. Our desires should be for what is necessary – food, clothing, shelter. We should be content with these.
2. **Listen to the right voice** (vv. 9, 10). The voice of the world is the voice of greed and stress - newer, bigger, brighter, better, shinier, more. The root of all evil is the **love** of money. One of the greatest dangers is the desire to be rich. When our goal is to get rich, we are at risk of falling into a trap. One of the most dangerous traps is debt. Many acquire a mortgage too big, ending up stressed while working two high pressure jobs. There is not time or energy to serve God and others. There is no money left in the budget to give to the Lord's work. Another dangerous trap waiting for those who want to get rich is the trap of pride and arrogance. Contrasted with this voice is the voice of God. His is the voice of peace of mind and true abundance – "Trust Me. Follow Me and I will give you everything you need."
3. **Have the right goals** (vv.17-9). God does not condemn rich people. Some of His best known followers were prosperous. God does not tell Timothy in these verses to instruct the rich to get rid of their wealth. God does tell the rich not to put their hope in their riches. He does instruct them to do good works, to be generous and ready to share with those in need. God commands them to invest in heaven so they can receive real life.

John begins his third epistle with a statement regarding his desire for the reader's prosperity and good health. The meaning found in the original Greek is having a good road on which to travel and being sound or complete. A successful life is a sound journey. Success is not a point destination. True success is seen in living a whole, healthy life as we walk with God.

Seniors, please consider God's instructions as you strive to define success for your life. "Discontent" is one word that characterizes the world which you are entering. Advertisers seek to cause us to be dissatisfied with what we have. Many compare themselves to others to determine success or failure. When we surrender to God and are thankful for and satisfied with the things we have, we have achieved success.

Money is like drinking saltwater. It does not satisfy. The more you get, the more you want. Do not let getting more money define success in life. Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. Then He will give you everything you need. Never forget that Jesus came to give us a truly blessed abundant life filled with joy and peace.

Our prayer is that in every way you will enjoy prosperity and good health. Especially prosperity of your soul. May your journey through life be travelled on a good road walking with God to genuine success. We love you and pray for you.

**RICKY**