



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

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SKYVIEW BULLETIN

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS?



How would you define “SUCCESS”? Each one of us probably have our own concept of what it means to be successful. Is success having no financial worries? Is success being able to fulfill every want and desire? Is success climbing to the top of the corporate ladder?

Sometimes our idea of success is complex. Some believe that a Christian should live an impoverished life. Other feel that it is not wrong to have nice things as long as we give something back to God.

Our society has created a “success trap” that many people have been caught by. Society uses the getting of material things as the bait for the trap. The more we have—the more successful we are is

the thinking of many. Our culture is driven by money and how it is involved in our lives. We allow money to define who we are. It is very easy to spend money in today’s culture. We can spend money on-line by accessing the many Internet businesses. We can buy almost any thing including automobiles on EBay and Craig’s List and other similar on-line stores and Internet want-ads.

It is very easy to spend large amounts of money via various home mortgage offers that enable people to buy homes they really cannot afford. Most of us are bombarded daily with credit card offers. We can finance an automobile for six or seven years enabling us to buy cars that exceed our budget. All of this makes it easy for a person to get caught in the “success trap” created by our society.

We have a warning in 1 Timothy 6:10 that “...the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” Money is not the root of all evil, it is the LOVE of money that is the basis of evil. The passage goes on to warn “for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

We are prone to think of people with money as “successful.” We don’t have to know how they obtained their wealth—the fact they possess money makes them a success. Maybe they inherited their money and did not have to work for it. Perhaps they stole it or defrauded someone. To many, the way money is obtained is not important—what is important is that a person possesses it. How often do we encourage our children to get a college education so they can get a “good job.” There is certainly nothing wrong with a good college education. In fact everyone should work toward that goal. But shouldn’t there be a greater motivation to get a good education besides the ability to make more money than someone who did not go to college? We rate a “good job” as one that pays a large salary. Even some of the ads on TV insist that we need to buy a certain product because “you deserve it.” (back page)

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PREACHER

Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

**William Stewart--Kingston, Canada
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba**

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

**Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.**

WORSHIP PLACE

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The Bible can help us to develop a proper attitude toward material things. In 1 Timothy 6:6 we are taught that ...*“godliness with contentment is great gain.”* The word “godliness” in this passage has to do with how we live. To be godly is to respect and revere God and His authority. It has to do with where we place God in our lives. It has to do with our desire to please Him and not ourselves.

But we must also learn contentment along with our development of godliness. What does it mean to be content? Basically, contentment means to be satisfied with what we possess. It means that we do not resent the fact that other people may have more than we have. Contentment comes through a learning process. Paul said that he learned to be content in every circumstance (Philippians 4:11 NIV). He continued to say that he had learned to be content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, or having plenty or being in want (verse 12). Contentment does not come automatically. In fact, if we are trained by the world’s definition of success we will never know true contentment. In 1 Timothy 6:8 we are told that we should be content with only food and clothing. This is obviously something we must learn because it goes against everything our society says about success.

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Let’s be honest. How many of us would be happy if all we owned were the clothes on our back and food in our stomach? Not many of us, if any, would declare this to be success. Yet contentment can be possible with only these basic necessities if we learn the definition of “success.”

The rest of the context in 1 Timothy 6 gives us a warning that *“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”* (verse 9).

After issuing these warnings, Paul continued to advise the young preacher, *“But you, O man of God, flee these things [the harmful lusts and temptations to be rich] and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness”* (1 Timothy 6:11). He then gave commandment concerning Christians who were rich. *“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God who gives us richly all things to enjoy”* (1 Timothy 6:17). Here is the formula of true success. Trust in God, living a selfless life, being righteous, having godliness, possessing faith and love and patience and being gentle is how the Bible defines true success.

Is it wrong to be rich? NO! Is it wrong to enjoy some of life’s luxuries? NO! Is it wrong to have a desire to adequately provide the necessities of life for our family? CERTAINLY NOT! Is it wrong to be successful on our job or our career? Again the answer is NO!

But we must we aware of the danger of the devil’s trap and not be caught up in it. We must realize that whatever success we may achieve in this life; whatever physical possessions we may accumulate will not last. This is why we cannot trust in the uncertainty of riches. We must invest in the future by storing up the things that will last forever.

Notice how this context in 1 Timothy 6 ends. *“storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life”* (verse 19). For some, success means having a good retirement when this life is over. For a Christian, success is having an eternal retirement in heaven when this life is done. A Christian stores up a good foundation for the time to come. They lay hold of eternal life.

What about you? How do you define success? Is the possession of material things how you view success? Or do you think of success as having eternal life? If you are not a Christian you will never enjoy eternal success. You can change that and lay for yourself a good foundation for the future by believing that Jesus is God’s Son (Hebrews 11:6), by turning from sin in repentance (Luke 13:3), by confessing your faith in God’s Son (Romans 10:9,10) and by putting Christ on in baptism (Galatians 3:27). Then you can pursue godliness and learn and develop contentment. This is true success. This results in true happiness. This gives us a possession that will not fade away and that no one can take from us. Why not begin your journey to true success today?



Adult
Auditorium
New class
beginning in
January:
The Life Of Christ

GOD’S
PLAN OF SALVATION
Believe—Heb. 11:6
Repent—Luke 13:3
Confess—Rom. 10:9
Be Baptized—
Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,
1 Pet. 3:21