Pitfalls to Prosperity  
I Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19

Introduction:
A. Prosperity dangerous, so is poverty. (Prov. 30:8,9).
   1. Poor not to make money goal. (1 Tim. 6:6-10).
B. Prosperity can be a blessing (3 John 2), but few let it be so.
   1. Often brings social problems: Lawlessness, discontent, permissiveness.
   2. Often brings personal problems: Envy, hatred, emulations, etc.
   3. Often bring over-dependance on money. Think it solves all, like Simon.
C. Prosperity brings us face to face with many temptations:

Discussion:
II. The Temptation To Measure Success In Dollars And Cents. Vs. 5,6
A. Successful with or without it.
   1. Without it. (vs. 7,8; Lk. 9:59; 1 Cor. 4:10-13).
   2. With it. (vs. 18, 19 Abraham, Joseph of Armathea)
B. Failure with or without it.
   1. With it. (Rev. 3:17; Luke 12:16-21; Mk. 8:36).
   2. Without it - may be due to laziness and carelessness. (1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thess 3:10).

III. The Temptation To Think Of Real Needs In Economic Terms. (cf. Lk. 12:15)
A. Think better things make better people.
   1. Social gospel concept.
   2. Gospel makes better people regardless to economics. (cf. I Cor. 6:9-11).
B. Think "better than we had" make children better.
   1. Spend fortune for better education, recreation, etc.
   2. Spend hours wondering why not appreciated. - Did not address real needs.

IV. The Temptation To Purchase Honor With Our Donations. (Mt. 6:1-4)
A. Think of self as great benefactor. (cf. 1 Cor. 13:3).
B. Forget than giver should be real beneficiary. (Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:16; Phil. 4:11-13,17).
   1. Give because we need it.
   2. God needs nothing from us.
   3. God can supply others needs without us.

V. The Temptation To Substitute Dollars For Deeds. v. 18
A. In the home: Buy child rearing, substitute money for hospitality.
B. In the community: Send check, flowers, etc. rather than personal care, etc. (cf. Matt. 25:42-45; Jas. 1:27).
C. In the church: Pay preacher to do OUR work, OUR studying, etc.
   1. Miss the point. Christians work for personal development, not just to get job done.
   2. Must first give selves, then money. (2 Cor. 8:5).

Conclusion:
A. Let us thank God for material blessings and pray for wisdom to us them.
B. Let us trust God, not in money for security and salvation.