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**Investing in the Future**

**1 Timothy 6:3-19**

One of the darkest periods in modern financial history

began on October 24, 1929-a day remembered as Black Thursday. During a six-day period the value of securities dropped by twenty-six billion dollars. By the end of November, the nationwide loss exceeded one hundred billion dollars. According to the *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia,* by 1933 "over fourteen million Americans were unemployed, industrial production was down to one-third of its 1929 level, and national income had dropped by more than half."

In 1 Timothy 6:3-19 Paul warns us against putting our hope

in wealth, "which is so uncertain." Instead, he urges us to invest our time, resources and energy in the only future

which is eternally secure.

1. Think about winning the lottery or a sweepstakes. How do you think your life would be different if you won?

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2. Read 1 Timothy 6:3-19. What are the qualities of a godly man according to this passage?

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3. One of the marks of a false teacher is that he thinks "godliness is a means to financial gain" (vv. 3-5). Why might greed lead to false teaching?

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4. According to Paul, the godly person should be content with merely food and clothing (vv. 6-8). How does this view contrast with society's requirements for contentment?

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5. What dangers and difficulties await those who love money and want to get rich (vv. 9-10)?

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 6. How might the desire for riches lead people into

 temptation, ruin, destruction and grief-and even cause

 them to wander from the faith?

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7. Even though people around us may devote their lives

to accumulating wealth, what higher calling does Paul

urge us to pursue (vv. 11-16)?

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***22 Hope***

8. How can wealth lead to arrogance and a false sense of security (v. 17)?

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9. Paul's warnings against wealth might lead us to think God is a miserly killjoy. Yet how does Paul's description

of God in verse 17 shatter that notion?

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Why is it so important to put our hope in the Provider

rather than in what he richly provides?

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10. According to Paul, what is the best investment strategy for a secure future (vv. 18-19)?

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11. What adjustments do you need to make in your lifestyle or giving patterns to better follow Paul's investment strategy?

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*Thank God for richly providing everything for our enjoyment. Ask him to set you free from the love of money so that you can pursue true riches and discover "the life that is truly life" (v. 19).*