

1 Timothy 6:6-19 What do we pursue? Position or Posture?

On Thursday Brian, Ed & I went to our Archdeaconry Finance briefing- according to national church we are one of the richest Diocese in country! Partly because of local salary rates and the cost of land & property in our Diocese

Therefore expectations on us

Great being part of national church...

But it has obligations and expectations

Diocese caught between rock & hard place in terms of financial need and expectation

We get caught up in that

vs 17

For those who in their present age are rich

IS that you? Do you see yourself as rich?

According to Business Insider UK in April this year David & Simon Reuben are the richest people in Britain with a net worth of £13.1m

In comparison with them we may not consider ourselves rich

But in comparison to 90% of world's population we are certainly rich

At the briefing Arch Deacon Olivia reminded us that 16/38 parables of Jesus focus on money not... 1/10 verses in Gospels are to do with money

Certainly feels as if lots of our Sunday readings have been around money, wealth, what we do with it, priority in life that we give it

vs 10 often misquoted

Not money itself that is evil BUT the LOVE of money is the root of all kinds of evil

In western world today money and all that we hope it will do has certainly become a focus, people strive for better jobs that pay more and more money so that they can **have**.....

Paul is urging Timothy towards the end of this letter (jumped from chap 2 to chap 6) to understand the 'dangers' of the love of money, how the love of money can be a distraction from faith and setting hope on the uncertainty of riches rather than on God

Paul urges Timothy to pursue the things that count, not just in the short term but also in the long term, to take hold of the eternal life

Look at the Godly qualities he encourages us to pursue
righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness

Why? Because God is more concerned with our posture than our position

He is more concerned about our heart and our values than about our place in the world, our position in society

And because God provides everything we need for our enjoyment.

We brought nothing in to the world and we take nothing out of it says vs 7

So let's do good, be rich in good works... ready to share... be generous

Because - Paul reminds Timothy and us, these are the foundation stones for life that is really life!!

What do we pursue? What do we invest our time and energy into? Making money, wealth, new bigger and better possessions?

Or those things that Paul commends a righteous life, a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy?

What makes us truly content?

Are we more focused on our position or our posture?

The God we come together to worship is the one who gives life to all things vs 13

King of Kings and Lord of Lords as Paul says vs 15

God who made heaven and earth the sea and all that is in them

God who keeps His promise for ever says the Psalm

Our daily lives are fragile and we are humanly vulnerable...

What do we pursue? What makes us truly content?

Let's just look at the words we sang at the beginning of our service.....

Let us pursue God, the one who loves us unconditionally, who gave His all for us

Let us lift up our eyes and SEEK HIS face

Because Christ is the path and Christ the prize.