Dave Gustavsen – The Pursuit of Happiness **CLUE #3: GREED** Ecclesiastes 5:10-20 Sermon Based Questions – August 9, 2015

Introduction:

- 1. What are some things on your wish list?
- 2. What are some things that you have purchased or done that you thought would deliver the ultimate, but let you down and left you with buyer's remorse?

Understanding:

- 3. Pastor Dave talked about a landmark study out of Princeton in 2010 where they tried to correlate household income with happiness. Three thousand years earlier Solomon observed a very similar conclusion: people who assume that the more you make, the happier you are, wind up unsatisfied. What are your thoughts?
- 4. Read Proverbs 23:4-5. How do you wear yourself out? When have you trusted in your own cleverness, only to fail?
- 5. Read 1 Timothy 6:17. Timothy warns people in his <u>church</u> NOT to idolize money. Besides money, what do people in 2015 idolize?
- 6. The end of 1 Timothy 6:17, tells us to put our hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. This past week, did you truly <u>enjoy</u> the things God has given you? What and how did you enjoy them? If you didn't enjoy them, what was it that kept you from enjoying them?
- 7. What are the stressors in life that prevent you from enjoying what God has provided you?
- 8. Read Ecclesiastes 5:19. Solomon talks about "accepting your lot" or being content with what you have. How and when does God reveal your lack of contentment?
- 9. Read Hebrews 13:5. What is the command and how can we do it?
- 10. Read Philippians 4:11-13. How does Paul remain content?

Application:

- 11. 1 Timothy 6:6 says, "But godliness with contentment is great gain." Pray that God will help you fight off greed and to be content with what God has given you.
- 12. Greed is very powerful. Paul, like Solomon, realized that he couldn't do it on his own. In Philippians 4:13 Paul says, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." As you pray, ask God to give you the strength to overcome!
- 13. Keep a list all week of things and people you are grateful for and thank God!