



ECPC Newsletter ~ January 10



The Root of All Evil: Covetousness vs Contentment

Sunday we considered Paul's warning to those who have money. Paul starts by addressing the "love of money" as the root of all kinds of evil. But in our text Sunday, he warns those who have it to avoid the distortion it can create. It can distort our view of self, convincing us we're special, better than others (haughty). It can distort our view of its role and ability in our lives, diverting our hope from God (hope in the uncertainty of riches). It can distort our view of life, leading us to

believe that being rich in this present age is what life is about. Paul urges those with money to be rich toward God by doing good and being ready to give generously.

This week we're going to look at Paul's directive to pursue something other than money. Paul tells Timothy rather directly, "Flee these things," but that's not all. The gospel isn't just a call to turn from something but to turn to something. Paul urges Timothy to pursue "righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness." This is Paul's explanation of his previous statement, "Godliness with contentment is great gain."

The word "contentment" is a play on words contradicting the mantra of the Stoics that suffering should be faced with "self-sufficiency." The Stoics taught that humanity should stand in the middle of the storms of life with resilience and determination. Paul steals their image of strength and reforms it with this word contentment. Believers face hardship and suffering with humility and dependence on their Creator.

Contentment is not self-sufficiency but submission to and humility before God. Paul articulates this well when he says, "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content." (Philippians 4:11) He says he's had little, he's had abundance, but he's learned the secret to contentment, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (4:13)

For Paul, and for you, contentment is found in the presence and power of Christ. So come Sunday and let's consider what it looks like to move out of covetousness into contentment. Paul says this is the real gain you're looking for!

~Pastor Tim

Upcoming Events

January 9 & 11	Women's Bible Studies begin
January 14	Family Covered Dish Luncheon
Jan 21 - Feb 11	Missions Emphasis Month
January 25	ECCS Open House
January 28	Starting Point
February 3	8th Annual Chili Bowl
February 4	Congregational Meeting
March 16-18	Women's Retreat



2017 Xtra Year-end Giving

The final count of what was contributed for Xtra is **\$40,482**. Thank you for your generous giving to help raise money for this year's projects!



Family Covered Dish Luncheon, January 14

Mark your calendar and sign-up for our next Family Covered Dish Luncheon at 11:30am on Sunday, January 14. This is a wonderful time of fellowship for everyone.

Please bring a dish to serve 10-12. For your convenience, you may drive up to the church doors under the portico between 9:30am-9:55am, and someone will receive your dish for the luncheon. After that time, please bring your dish to the large kitchen by the gym.

If you are able to come around 9:15am to help set up and/or receive food, please indicate that on the sign-up. Thank you!

Sign up [here](#).



You're Invited to Celebrate Werner's 90th Birthday!

Look who is turning 90! Please join us to celebrate Werner's 90th birthday. Werner and his late wife Jean started coming to ECPC in the 1990's. He has two daughters, Susan and Margie, living in Atlanta, and a son Sam who resides in Augusta. Werner served in the army during the Korean War, was a missionary to Chile, and served as a PCA pastor. Please drop by anytime on **Sunday, January 14 between 3:00 and 5:00pm**. Bill and Lisa Rowling, 4072 Penhurst Drive, Marietta (Lisa: 404-401-7262 or lisarowling@bellsouth.net / Bill: 404-312-0930). All are welcome.

Lost and Found

Last call for you to claim items that have been sitting in our Lost & Found bin in the church office. Check out our [Facebook page](#) to see pictures of what has been collecting over the past months.

Starting Point

Starting Point - January 28

Starting Point is for visitors and is designed for those in our community who want to meet our pastor and his family. Our next Starting Point will be on January 28 from 11:45am - 1pm. Come enjoy lunch and a time of fellowship at the home of Pastor Tim & Debbie Locke. Children are welcome. To rsvp [click here](#) or contact Donna Minday in the church (770) 973-4114 x 100 or donna@ecpca.org.



Missions Emphasis Month (MEM) Preview

On Sunday, Lisa Longeiret (Missions Ministry Team Chairman) will be introducing Missions Emphasis Month, and we will hear from Trey and Hannah Nation to give us a taste of what we have to look forward to! Don't miss it! And mark your calendar for the International Street Fair on February 11!



Open House, January 25

Please join us at our upcoming Open House on Thursday, January 25 at 7pm in the Youth Room (lower level, Bldg B). There will be grade-level break-out sessions to meet the teachers. Our mission is to covenant with Christian parents, not only to teach the minds of their children, but also to reach their hearts with the love grace, and wonder of God.

This event is most appropriate for parents. Please schedule a tour anytime for your potential ECCS student to visit campus. RSVP's appreciated to cathy.moses@eccs.org.



Annual Church Chili Bowl - February 3

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! The Chili Bowl is our annual flag football game of the women of the church vs. the senior high girls; and the men of the church vs. the senior high boys. The schedule this year will be:

- 12:30pm - Women's game starts on the field
- 2:00pm - Men's game starts on the field
- 5:00pm - Chili will be served for all in gym.

Invite a friend! Sign up coming soon.
Questions? Contact Jonathan Jackson (jonathan@j2projectman.com).

Early Education (Nurseries, 2s & 3s)

Visit this [link](#) to view your serving schedule and confirm your volunteer dates. Questions? Contact Christina at christina@ecpca.org or text 540-538-9237.

IS YOUR INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE?

If you serve in any of our Children's Ministries (nurseries through KidConnect) please stop by the table in the atrium and verify your contact information. We rely on email as our primary means of communication, so it is critical that we have an accurate email address for you (please provide one that you check regularly). We also use text messaging to send out reminders the day before you are scheduled to serve, as well as to occasionally find last minute subs, so please make sure we have a correct cell phone number for you as well. Thanks!

EARLY EDUCATION VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

- Please [click here](#) view the volunteer schedule for Children's Ministries winter quarter. There are a number of dates on which volunteers are still needed. If you're available to serve, please email christina@ecpca.org, or click [here](#) and select the OPEN tab to sign up.

NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- If you've been looking for a place to get plugged in, we'd love to add you to our Early Education serving team in 2018! Volunteers must be members of ECPC and must go through our security screening. We are hoping to add 3-4 new volunteers each to our infants, toddlers, and 2- and 3-year-old classes. Volunteers will serve twice a quarter (that's only 8 Sundays a year!). Contact Christina Fisher (christina@ecpca.org) to find out more.

Serving January 14:

Purple Lambs (infants): Joyce Leonard & Kathy Grady
Yellow Lambs (toddlers): John & Caroline Carroll
Green Lambs (2s): Brian, Natalie & Sarah Wallace
Blue Lambs (3s): Edie Oliver, Teresa Staley & Carter Wallace
Assistant: Kaitlyn Wallace

Serving January 21:

Purple Lambs (infants): Kacey & Karen Carr
Yellow Lambs (toddlers): Evan & Lilly Pellegrino
Green Lambs (2s): Amy Masters & Miranda Larkin
Blue Lambs (3s): Andrew & Rachel Wideman
Assistant: Cara Retzlaff



Women's Ministries

For more information on our studies and upcoming events visit go to ecpcwomen.com.

Souper Supper

Join us at the annual Souper Supper January 19, 7-9pm in the gym for a wonderful evening of warm soups, mouthwatering desserts, and delightful company.

We'll hear Katy Howell's testimony of how her faith was transformed during her college years followed by Alexis Gurkin's stories of ministering to and with college students around the world... a little taste of what to expect during Missions Emphasis Month! Sign up [here](#).

Bible Studies

TUESDAY EVENINGS at 7:15-8:45pm / starting January 9 / meets in conference room A101

Revelation study: The Returning King

The study looks at Revelation's core message and ensures that its details do not cloud the big picture. The author shows Revelation to be a picture book, not a puzzle book, relevant and applicable to the daily lives of Christians. Click [here](#) to order your book.

THURSDAY MORNINGS from 10-11:30am - / starting January 11

Amazing Collection, Year 3: From Romans to Revelation / meets in the conference room, A101

Get a 30,000 foot view as we study one book a week and see the pieces of God's Word fit together. Weekly reading and prep work required. Newcomers welcome! For book ordering info, please contact Becky Loechl (bloechl4@gmail.com) or Mara Retzlaff (mara@retzlaff.org).

The Envy of Eve: Finding Contentment in a Covetous World by Melissa Kruger / meets in the Loft

The Envy of Eve guides readers to understand how desires grow into covetousness and what happens when this sin takes power in our hearts. Covetousness chokes out the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, allowing discontentment to bloom. The key to overcoming is to get to the root of our problem: unbelief - a mistrust of God's sovereignty and goodness. Click [here](#) to order your book.



Women's Retreat March 16-18, 2018

Escape with us to Callaway Gardens as we study *Friendships Rooted in the Garden of the Gospel*. Get details and register [here](#) (ecpcwomen.com/2018retreat).



Student Ministries

Check out our new youth ministry website (www.eastcobbyouthministry.com) for all things ECPC youth news, calendars, event registration, mission trip donations and more!

JUNIOR HIGH LIFE

If you are interested in signing up for our JHL text reminders, just text @easypeazy to 81010!

- **Jr High Life** - Will resume on January 14 at 6pm
- **Jr High Life EVENT!** -TBD, Friday, January 26 from 7-9pm.
- **Save the Date! - JHL Retreat** - March 16-18. Ridge Haven Camp with some awesome optional activities (paintball, climbing tower, gaga, bubble ball, ridditch, archery, bubble soccer hiking, campfires, etc.) and an amazing speaker coming down from Maryland! Stay tuned for more details.

SENIOR HIGH LIFE

If you're interested in signing up for our SHL text reminders, just text @JordanRoss to 81010!

- **Sr High Life** - SHL will resume tonight, January 10.
- **SHL Ignite Retreat** - Friday, January 12th at 6:30pm - Saturday, January 13th at 3:30pm. All Senior High Life students are encouraged to attend this short 2-day retreat to learn how to share the gospel more effectively. Visit our new youth website for more info and to register: www.eastcobbyouthministry.com/registration. Early bird sign up time has been extended until Friday, Jan 12th. Cost is \$30 which includes two meals, snacks, & books and all materials. The cost is \$35 if you don't pre-register.

Giving Status as of 12/31/2017

Ministry year started July 1.

Budget Income:	\$477,491
<u>Tithes & Offerings:</u>	<u>\$459,918</u>
Variance:	(\$17,573)

Giving on the Go...from your phone!

You can give even from your mobile phone whether you are in or out of town. From your phone, go to the church website, ecpca.org, click Give Online, and you'll see the new simple online giving page. Just enter the amount of your gift, choose the fund to give to, enter your credit card number and some basic information, and you're done! It's that easy.

[Click to Give Online at ECPC](#)

STAY CONNECTED



East Cobb Presbyterian Church | 4616 Roswell Rd., NE | Marietta, GA | 30062
donna@ecpca.org | ecpca.org