"Jesus' American Dream" Life Group Notes

Read 1 Timothy 6:5-10 and answer these questions:

1. What is the difference between believing "gain is godliness" and believing "godliness, with contentment, is Great Gain" (vs. 5-8)?

- 2. If riches alone do not cause problems (see verses 9 & 10), what causes men to "fall into temptation"; what is the "root of evil".
- 3. What kind of problems does mis-placed devotion to money cause (also verses 9 & 10)?

Read 1 Tim. 6:17-19 and answer these questions:

- 4. What things did Paul say to "those who are rich in this present age"...
 - ...things to avoid ______ ...what works to do ______
 - ...what two benefits to expect (vs. 19):
 - a. ______ b. _____

Read aloud to the group Matthew 6:33 NIV *"seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things* [you need: food, clothes, etc.] *will be given to you as well."*

Contrast Matthew 6:33 with The American Dream

"<u>The American Dream</u> defined: Ultimately, the American Dream maintains a <u>core set of beliefs</u>: the <u>right to certain freedoms</u> that enable every individual <u>to pursue a life of success and happiness</u>. [Modernism adds] What success and happiness mean to one person is not necessarily what they mean to another. In the end, it is up to each American to decide what the Dream looks like to them, with the <u>knowledge that America affords them the opportunity to pursue it</u> <u>freely.</u>" <u>www.corporatefinanceinstitute.com</u>"

 Discuss with the group how the verses we've studied (1 Timothy 6 & Matthew 6 above) MUST *inform* and *help us redefine* OUR <u>American Dream</u> (write your thoughts below):

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