TIM WAUGH | CROSSNET

When Lack Becomes a Lens

A biblical perspective on lack, dignity, generosity, and faithful stewardship.

Editorial starter resource - October 4, 2026. Drafted for the website; not Pastor Tim's completed weekly handout.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

James 2:1–9; Philippians 4:11–13

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 21:5; 2 Corinthians 8:12–15; Matthew 6:25–34; Ephesians 2:6

READ TEACHING

Poverty is a real shortage of resources. Scripture repeatedly calls God’s people to care for those in need. James 2 forbids favoritism toward the wealthy. A church that treats financial struggle as evidence of inferior faith contradicts that command.

There is also an inner experience of scarcity: fear that there will never be enough, shame about asking for help, or pressure to make desperate decisions. These patterns deserve compassion. They may arise from trauma, unstable work, injustice, or repeated loss. They are not a substitute explanation for every cause of poverty.

Paul learned contentment in both abundance and need. Philippians 4:13 is spoken within that context; it is not a guarantee of unlimited wealth. Christ strengthens His people to remain faithful through changing circumstances.

Our standing in Christ, described in Ephesians 2:6, is not measured by a bank balance. Grace restores dignity and invites practical action: honest planning, learning, fair employment, wise counsel, and community support. Second Corinthians 8 also calls the community to share so that needs are met.

Ask: What is one realistic step I can take this week? What help can I request without shame? How can our fellowship address a tangible need? Generosity should be voluntary, never a price paid for acceptance or a promise of guaranteed financial return.

KEY REVELATION POINTS

Material poverty is not proof of spiritual failure.

Scarcity can shape expectations, but people should not be blamed for injustice or deprivation.

Biblical generosity includes practical care and responsible stewardship.

TEACHING / SERMON OUTLINE

1. Reject favoritism and honor human dignity.

2. Distinguish material lack from a pattern of fear.

3. Read Paul’s contentment in both abundance and need.

4. Make one practical plan and one act of mutual care.

YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST

“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” - Ephesians 2:6 NKJV

Read all passages in context. Use this handout for personal study, group discussion, or sermon preparation.