

THE LOVE OF MONEY Or Wealth Management 1 TIMOTHY 6

In the first five chapters Paul has written to Timothy about dealing with certain categories of people and ministry. He has addressed **Pastors... False teachers... Deacons... Elders... Bishops... Widows... Old Guys** – They Rule some say... **Older women, younger women, young guys** too. He wrote about praying for **Kings** and armies, even if they were enemies. The Apostle wrote about the Mystery of Godliness in CH 3.

Sadly, in CH 4 he wrote about **the ones who would fall away**, and about how hard it would be to come back. On that Sunday, a man did indeed come back to the Lord after our service!

In chapter five he encouraged the church to **pay their leaders** well and today in chapter six he will address four more groups of people:

Slaves (employees)

Troublemakers

The rich

The Educated

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many bondservants...

- Let's talk about slavery in the bible.
 - Nowhere does the Bible, or God for that matter, allow for slavery. For one human to own another is heinous and should be stopped. Amen?
 - However, it had been going on for thousands of years before Timothy arrived in Ephesus... It is STILL happening around the world... And so the bible addresses those involved in slavery from both sides of the matter.
 - Debtor's slavery was common in Paul's time too. We don't have that, right? Just stop paying your taxes and bills and soon YOU will be a slave too.

SO... SLAVES...

as are under the yoke count **(Treat)** their own masters **(Bosses)** worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and *His* doctrine may not be blasphemed.

- Think of your job as a mission field. You should work hard to honor your boss. You should work hard to be a good witness to your coworkers. Be early... Leave a little late... Finish your work!
 - Chuck Smith – Don't witness on the clock, work! Don't have prayer meetings on the clock – work!
 - For a few of us, our boss is a slice of heaven. Then there are the rest of us who tolerate and ingrateful narcissist on a daily basis. **Listen...**

BELIEVING BOSSES

2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise *them* because they are brethren, but rather **serve them** because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

- I always praise God when someone is able to invite and bring a coworker to church. That tells me that they are being a good testimony at work.
- The best way to be a good witness at work is to be a good worker!
- On my last security assignment, I was the only team member who had not been a cop. We guarded a wealthy and politically active family in Beverly Park. When a new company bought the company I worked for, they decided to lay off some of us. The new boss stopped by the mansion I was working at to deliver the news to me. In the course of conversation, he asked if we had any training materials he could use to learn the layout of the five acre- three house compound. I produced a notebook with all of the alarm codes, fire escapes, emergency shut off valves, alarm overrides, electrical and gas shut off valves, and emergency gate opening instructions – all with pictures of what they looked like. Who made this? He asked. “I did” I said. On your own time? Yes. “You’re staying Coleman, I’ll lay off someone who doesn’t have your initiative!” My extra credit work saved my job! I stayed for twelve years. They nicknamed me, “Padre.”

FALSE TEACHERS

3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, **(IE, scriptures)** 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and **arguments over words**, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*. From such withdraw yourself.

NLT - 3 Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. 4 Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions. 5 These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy.

- Beloved, when you see, hear, or discern arrogance in a pastor, teacher, or speaker... beware! Jesus wasn’t arrogant... and HE is God!
- Be as careful with your teachers as you are with your food. **Listen...**

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

- **Guzik** - When one does not live by “the itch for more,” and one’s life is not dominated by shopping for and acquiring material things, we can have the kind of **contentment** in God and in His will for our lives.
 - One of our past Elders turned down a series of promotions offered to him, even though the extra pay would have been significant. When I asked him why, he simply said, I am content with doing the work and I don’t want to oversee others doing the work that I enjoy! **WISDOM!**

TO THE “WORKAHOLIC”

7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

- You never see a trailer hitch on a hearse.
 - Friends, you cannot take anything to heaven except relationships. Make sure you work on those, MORE than on wealth.
 - **Proverbs 30:7-9** - 7 Two *things* I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): 8 Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me; 9 Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.
 - What do you need? **Listen....**

8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

Courson story - In the mountains of Mexico lie two adjacent springs. One sends forth hot water, the other cold.

"Your people must thank God for hot and cold water right next to each other," said a travel guide to an Indian as he washed his clothes in the springs.

The Indian wisely answered, "No, we grumble because He didn't supply soap."

THE TRAP OF TRYING TO GET RICH

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

AN OFTEN-MISQUOTED VERSE

10 For the **love** of money is a root of all *kinds* of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Trick question – What is wrong with money?
 - What is wrong with having a lot of money?
 - Is it wrong to want money?
- What is wrong with loving money?
 - Loving money is the root of all evil. People murder for money... They lie, cheat, and steal for money.
 - This past week, a group of people broke into a barbershop, tied a rope around an ATM machine, and pulled it out on the street using a pickup... All while being video recorded so we could enjoy watching... for what? THE LOVE OF MONEY.
 - **I would NEVER do that, some say...** We hope not. But...
 - Would you miss attending your kid's games? Taking them to church? Would you skip volunteering for making more money?
 - We hope not. Here is what to do...

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

11 But you, O man of God, (*An OT title used 76 times from Moses till the Minor Prophets... And then with Timothy*) flee these things (*Love of \$*) and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ***IE, keep an eternal perspective!***

- I think Timothy must have been being tempted with wealth. He was living in a big city with lots of things to do that costs lots of money... Paul urges him-

13 I urge **CHARGE** you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, 15 which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom

be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

- The Apostle reminds Timothy that Jesus Christ ministered with full arms and empty pockets.
- Paul reminds Timothy that true power is in Christ and not in riches.
- There is no richer person than the person who knows his Lord Jesus on a personal basis. THAT is the wealth I desire, and I hope to share that with my family and my church. THAT wealth, the love of the Lord, I WILL take with me when my life here is over. **NOW... a word for the wealthy...**

A WORD TO THE WEALTHY

17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, (**Arrogant**) nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

- We started this chapter instructing the poorest of people.... And end dealing with the wealthy.

18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

So, you cannot take your wealth **WITH** you, but...
you **CAN** send it ahead!

UNTIL NEXT LETTER

20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge— 21 by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

Paul will begin his next letter to Timothy by recalling the tears they shed when they last said goodbye... It will be a sweet letter to study!