

## Study 7- 1 Timothy

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10, 17-19

“Don’t worry about doctrine,” some modern preachers say; “the important thing is spiritual unity.” Those who were teaching false doctrine and who would not agree to Paul’s teachings were to be noted and dealt with. The apostle clearly marks these people who cause trouble in the church. They are proud; they want to be “important people” in the church. Yet they are ignorant, “knowing nothing.” Having rejected sound doctrine, they have made themselves spiritually sick. Instead of feeding on the truths of God’s Word, they feed on empty questions and the meanings of words. The thought of “gain” in v. 5 leads Paul into a discussion of the Christian and wealth. Using godliness to try to secure gain will never bring contentment; but a godly life, which is a contented life, is certainly great gain to a person. It is easy to misinterpret vs. 9 and 10. In v. 9, Paul is warning those who will to be rich, that is, who set their whole attention on securing wealth. This kind of person is bound to fall into temptations and snares and will eventually sink into destruction. Think of all that Lot lost when he set his eyes on the rich plains of Sodom! Verse 10 does not teach that money is the root of all evil, but that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Money itself is not neutral; it is basically defiled. Jesus called money “unrighteous mammon,” and Paul called it “filthy lucre.” Money can be invested for eternity by bringing Christ to lost people, or it can send a man to hell by becoming his god.

Paul then injects a warning to Timothy because Christian leaders can be led astray by false values and a desire for material gain. Sometimes the best thing the Christian soldier can do is run. In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul commands him to “Flee youthful lusts.”

In Verses 17-19 we see instruction to the rich, telling them how to use their riches for God’s glory. Note that he calls them “rich in this present age.” It is possible to be rich in this world but not rich toward God. First, these people must be humble, accepting their wealth as a stewardship from God. They should keep their eyes on the Giver and not put their trust in the gifts. God wants His own to enjoy the blessings of life; the word “enjoy” is in the Bible! Money should be used for good works. It should be invested in things eternal, laying a good foundation for the time to come. “Treasures in heaven” is the way Jesus put it in Matthew 6.

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-5

1. How does Paul illustrate someone who teaches false doctrines and who does not agree to sound instruction? List the three characteristics he names in verse 4. Discuss the importance of each.

2. What is the result of the kind of behavior discussed in question 1? List the 5 results that Paul names in verses 4-5 and discuss the importance of each.

3. Note the criticism Paul points out that the very person who is consumed with financial gain have been robbed of the truth (6:5). If it is better to be rich in truth rather than material possessions why are so many people tempted to put finances above truth?

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Money is a power force in our lives. It has the power to help people and to do good, but if used unwisely, money can cause great harm. In this section Paul instructs Timothy on its proper uses.

4. If godliness is not a means to financial gain, what kind of gain does godliness bring (6:6)? What does this verse mean to you?

5. In verse 7 Paul gives a reason for his statement in 6:6. What is that reason? How would remembering his words in verse 7 help to keep us from being robbed of the truth?

6. You may have heard it said, “You can’t take it with you” or “there will be No U-Hauls in Heaven.” How is this basically the same message as 1 Timothy 6:7? How should that affect how we live?

7. How many people do you know that would be content with the provisions listed in 6:8? Would you be content with these alone? Explain

8. What warning is given by Paul in 6:9-10? Who is the warning given to? What is often the result of ignoring this warning?

9. According to 6:10, what two things often happen to people who eagerly seek after wealth? Of the two, which do you think is worse? Which do you think people fear most?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and answer the following questions.

10. According to 6:17, why is putting your hope in God is the only way to “richly” enjoy life? What does the last part of this verse teach you about God’s love and desire for you?

11. Why do you think Paul would spend so much time in a personal letter to his young friend, instructing him on money and the proper use of it? What does money have to do with the growth (or lack of it) in a local body of believers?

12. What part of Paul’s teaching about money in this section encourages you the most. What part of it surprises you the most? What part might of it convicted you the most?

Here’s Some Great Scriptures

“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.” 1 Timothy 6:10

“He who trusts in his riches will fall. But the righteous will flourish like foliage.”

Proverbs 11:28

“Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings, they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.” Proverbs 23:5

“A faithful man will abound with blessing, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.” Proverbs 28:20