

**Title:** Stay Away from Materialism

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 6:3-10

Draft Summary:

I. Stay away from false teachers that promote human self and human possessions (v.3-5)

II. Be content in Christ. (v. 6-10)

Key Truths:

- Distinction: Contentment vs. Complacency
  - Contentment = feeling of satisfaction with one's possession, status, or situation.
    - Complacency = self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies around you
  - Contentment = thankful to God for everything
    - Complacency = congratulates self
  - Contentment = Passionately pursues excellence
    - Complacency = Rests on accomplishments

Application:

Three priceless gifts when I decide to be content in Christ:

1. My current enjoyment will increase instead of constantly striving for something I do not have.
2. I have complete freedom to recognize and applaud another person's achievement without envy.
3. I will begin cultivating a genuine grateful spirit

Truth statements - Because of Christ,...

- I am grateful for what I have.
- I am satisfied with what I earn.
- I am blessed to be a blessing, hence I am generous to those in need

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

---

**Passage:**

1 Timothy 6:3-10

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin

and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

## **EXPOSITION**

### **Overview**

- I. Stay away from false teachers that promote human self and human possessions (v.3-5)
- II. Be content in Christ. (v. 6-10)

### **I. Stay away from false teachers that promote human self and human possessions (v.3-5)**

#### ***False Teachers - how identify or recognize them?***

##### ***1. Their teaching - Teach different doctrines from the Bible.***

1 Timothy 6:3

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,

- Deny key doctrines:
  - the virgin birth
  - Deity of Jesus
  - Etc.
- Teaching "something new that's never been seen before"
- Do not promote godliness
  - Godliness = to be like God, to be holy
    - Leave behind sin and pursue Christ

Matthew 7:15-20

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Galatians 5:22-24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

- Genuine teaching points to the fruit of the Spirit.
- False teaching:
  - Only focus on positive but not negative things.

- True repentance is from thinking you don't need God to realizing we're all sinners in need of a Savior.
- Cheap grace ("once saved, always saved")
  - God calls us not only to forgiveness of sins but also to pursue holiness
  - Truth: "Once saved, always repenting"
    - Not about perfection but direction towards godliness.
    - Not merely a stamp on an "eternity passport" but a genuine regeneration and transformation.

## **2. Character - Puffed up with conceit**

1 Timothy 6:4a

he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.

- Elevate themselves as a unique or special teacher.
- Jesus is not the focus on their teaching but merely a supplemental, extra aspect.
- Filter question: How much do they emphasize sin?
  - False teachers: Downplays sin as only an issue of "preference"
    - You are a gift from God (and focus only on positivity)
- Truth:
  - While you are a gift of God, you are infected with sin that deserves nothing but judgement in hell.
  - But God sent His only Son to live the perfect life you could never live and die the death on the cross to pay for your sins which you could never pay. Come to faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

## **3. Unhealthy craving for controversy and quarrel with words.**

1 Timothy 6:4b

He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,

- Focus on small nuanced issues. Ex: have you heard about the Anti-Christ or the End Times? Here is a book or teaching...
  - Everything goes back to a particular point or issue.
- Truth: The main things are the plain things. The plain things are the main things.
  - Do not focus on small or side tangents but rather on the plain, clear, explicit teachings in the Bible.

## **4. Teaching produces disunity.**

1 Timothy 6:5a

and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth,

## **5. Motivated by money**

1 Timothy 6:5b

imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

- Common teaching: prosperity Gospel
  - If have a problem, then say "if you purchase a special oil or give more, then find a special healing or solution..."
- Ex: Joel Osteen, Bill Johnson, Stephen Furick, Paula White, among many others

What's the solution with false teachers?

## **II. Be content in Christ. (v. 6-10)**

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness with contentment is great gain,

- Genuine and true godliness finds one's sufficiency in Christ alone.
  - godliness is not a means for financial gain. Godliness is the gain.
- In Christ, you have the God of the universe living in you. You have the Spirit of God in you.
  - You are never abandoned or left alone.
- Caution: A lot of our discontent is because we want more than just Jesus.

Distinction: Contentment vs. Complacency

- Contentment = feeling of satisfaction with one's possession, status, or situation.
  - Complacency = self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies around you
- Contentment = thankful to God for everything
  - Complacency = congratulates self
- Contentment = Passionately pursues excellence
  - Complacency = Rests on accomplishments

Ex: Perspective of a job

- Complacency: I'm just fine. I don't want to grow anymore
- Contentment: I thank the Lord for what I am. I am going to pursue excellence

See example of Paul:

Philippians 4:11

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

1 Corinthians 9:27

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

## **Why be content?**

### **1. You cannot take it with you (v.7)**

1 Timothy 6:7

for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

- all belongings are left behind. You cannot take anything material with you beyond death.

### **2. You already have enough (v.8)**

1 Timothy 6:8

But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

- What some people mistake for the high cost of living is really just the cost of high-living.
- Every Christian should be content with the basic necessities of life.
- "Possessions are only the traveling luggage of time. They are not the stuff of eternity. It would be sensible then to travel light"
- Discontent: If I am not satisfied with what I have, I will still not be satisfied with what I want.
  - This is a matter of the heart.
- See Example of Paul (Philippians 3)

Philippians 3:8

Indeed, I count everything as loss [dung] because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

### **3. The love of money is the root of all evil (v.9-10)**

1 Timothy 6:9-10

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

- It is the love of money that is condemned (not money or possessions themselves)
- If your salary is over \$24,000 per year, you're in the top 10% wealthy people in the world. It is a matter of perspective.

### **APPLICATION**

When we decide to be content, we will reap the benefits of that decision (it is a choice).

Three priceless gifts when I decide to be content in Christ:

1. My current enjoyment will increase instead of constantly striving for something I do not have.
2. I have complete freedom to recognize and applaud another person's achievement without envy.
3. I will begin cultivating a genuine grateful spirit
  - because God hasn't condemned us because of our sin, we should be thankful for everything beyond our life in Christ.

- Gratefulness begins with a decision we make. It starts in Christ. We deserve nothing but death. Anything beyond that is His mercy and grace.

Truth statements to Remember:

Because of Christ:

- I am grateful for what I have.
- I am satisfied with what I earn.
- I am blessed to be a blessing, hence I am generous to those in need