



Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You grateful for the gift of Your Word and the truth You have preserved for us through Your Son and His apostles. As we gather today, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Guard us against pride and distraction, and help each of us to receive whatever You have for us in this time together. May Your Spirit lead our conversation, and may we leave this place more rooted in Your truth and more devoted to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you are genuinely grateful for this week that you might normally take for granted?

Key Verses

1 Timothy 6:3–10 (read together as the main passage)

1 Timothy 1:3–7 and 4:6–8 (the letter's teaching and godliness)

Acts 20:28–32 and Matthew 7:15–20 (guarding and testing teaching)

Matthew 6:19–34 (treasure, allegiance, and the Father's care)

1 Timothy 6:11–12, 17–19 (pursuit, hope, and generosity)

Philippians 4:10–13 (contentment in want and abundance)

Questions

Read the main passage aloud first. In 1 Timothy 6:3–10, follow Paul’s argument before turning to the parallel passages: verses 3–5 expose teaching that uses godliness for gain; verses 6–8 redefine true gain through contentment; verses 9–10 warn about the desire to be rich. In your discussion, ask: What does the text say? Why does Paul say it? How should it shape our trust and conduct?

1. The pastor described himself as someone who tends to think the best of people and can be naive. Can you relate to that tendency? How might that mindset make it harder to recognize false teaching?
2. In 1 Timothy 6:3–5, what specifically does Paul say about the teachers’ doctrine, conduct, and view of godliness? How can we distinguish persistent teaching that contradicts Christ’s words from a sincere mistake without pretending to know every teacher’s heart?
3. Read 1 Timothy 6:3–5 alongside 1 Timothy 1:3–7 and 4:6–8. What standard does Paul give for sound teaching, and what fruit does he associate with teaching that departs from it? How does the aim of love in 1:5 keep discernment from becoming contentiousness?
4. The sermon pointed out that false teachers can come from outside the church and also arise from within. How does that reality challenge the way we think about discernment in our own church community?
5. Read Acts 20:28–32 and Matthew 7:15–20. Where can distorted teaching arise, what responsibility is given to shepherds, and why does Jesus tell us to examine fruit? How can we test teaching without assuming we know every person’s motives?
6. Paul describes false teachers as conceited, knowing nothing, and having a sick craving for controversy. How do pride and arrogance open the door to spiritual deception, both in teachers and in those who follow them?
7. The pastor contrasted false godliness with true godliness, saying that real Christlikeness is marked by humility and contentment. What does contentment look like practically in your daily life?
8. In 1 Timothy 6:5–8, what does Paul mean by “gain” in verses 5 and 6? How do our arrival in and departure from the world support his call to contentment? What is the difference between contentment and indifference to real needs?
9. In 1 Timothy 6:6–8, Paul says that godliness with contentment is great gain and reminds us we brought nothing into this world and will take nothing out. How does keeping eternity in view change the way you think about money and possessions?
10. The sermon warned that the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil and can lead believers into a trap. In what subtle ways can the desire for more money or possessions begin to pull someone away from trusting God?

11. Read 1 Timothy 6:9–12. What progression does Paul describe from wanting to be rich to spiritual harm, and what does he command Timothy to flee and pursue instead? How does this move the conversation beyond simply avoiding money?
12. Read Matthew 6:19–34. How do Jesus' teaching on treasure (verses 19–21), two masters (verse 24), and the Father's care (verses 25–34) explain seeking the kingdom first? What does the passage promise, and what does it not promise about wealth or freedom from hardship?
13. Read 1 Timothy 6:17–19 alongside verses 9–10. How do Paul's instructions to those who have wealth distinguish possession from misplaced hope? What would generosity and good works look like in response to God's provision?
14. Read Philippians 4:10–13. In which contrasting circumstances has Paul learned contentment, and who strengthens him? How does this passage keep contentment from becoming either self-sufficiency or a promise that every goal will succeed?
15. Paul repeated his warning about false teaching three times in this letter. What are some practical steps your small group or church family can take to stay grounded in the truth of Scripture and guard against false teaching?
- 16.

Life Application

This week, read 1 Timothy 6:3–10 once more and name one claim about security or success that you need to test against it. Each morning, thank God for a specific provision; when worry arises, read Matthew 6:25–34 and pray about the need it names. Choose one concrete act of generosity or good work in response to 1 Timothy 6:17–19, and share with the group what you learned about trusting God rather than wealth.

Key Takeaways

1. False teaching that departs from Christ's sound words deserves serious discernment. We should examine both doctrine and its fruit while distinguishing persistent, harmful error from a sincere interpretive mistake.
2. The teachers Paul describes in 1 Timothy 6:3–5 are marked by conceit, destructive quarrels, and treating godliness as a means of gain. Their example calls the church to test teaching against Scripture, not to assume every disagreement reveals the same motives.
3. Godliness with contentment is true gain because our lives and possessions are temporary (1 Timothy 6:6–8). Christ strengthens believers to learn contentment in need as well as abundance

(Philippians 4:10–13).

4. Paul warns that the desire to be rich and the love of money can ensnare and draw people away from the faith (1 Timothy 6:9–10); he calls believers to pursue righteousness, faith, love, and gentleness instead (6:11–12).
5. Every local church has a responsibility to uphold the truth of Scripture as its foundation, guarding against false teaching from both outside and within the congregation.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your Word, which is truth and life. Thank You for the warning You have given us through the Apostle Paul so that we are not left without guidance. We confess that we can be naive, and we ask You to sharpen our discernment as a church family. Help us to hold firmly to the words You have given us through Your apostles, and protect us from the pride and greed that lead people away from You. Teach us to live with contentment, trusting that You are our Provider and that You are enough. May we leave this time together more committed to Your truth and more devoted to walking closely with You each day. In Your holy name we pray, amen.