

Truth is Not a Side-Hustle. | 1 Timothy 6:3-11

There is much at stake around ideas related to who Jesus is.

“Trying to get along with some unspecified 'God', we will quickly find ourselves with *another* God.” (Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*, 16)

False teaching about Jesus isn't just a bad idea.

Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who engage in it will produce even more godlessness, and their teaching will spread like gangrene. 2 Timothy 2:16-17

The steady progression of this active condition has two outcomes:

1. This sickness wreaks havoc on the entire community (vv4-5).

This is the very opposite of the community that loves one another and is known by their love (John 13:35).

“The best argument for Christianity is Christians: their joy, their certainty, their completeness. But the strongest argument against Christianity is also Christians—when they are sombre and joyless, when they are self-righteous and smug in complacent consecration, when they are narrow and repressive, then Christianity dies a thousand deaths.” (Sheldon Vanauken, A Severe Mercy, 85)

2. The sickness targets the hosts themselves.

They are robbed of the truth, demonstrated by the fact that they “imagine that godliness is a way to material gain” (v5).

For we do not market the word of God for profit like so many. On the contrary, we speak with sincerity in Christ, as from God and before God. 2 Corinthians 2:17.

Here is the truth: “Godliness with contentment is great gain” (v6).

Godliness is the greatest gain itself.

Godliness is a life full of God where God's presence is observable.

When we find this to be sufficient, then we have great gain.

Paul gives two reasons:

1. Material gain is irrelevant. Greed is irrational (v7).

2. The life essentials of food and clothing/shelter are enough (v8, see also Matthew 6:24-34, Luke 12:15-34).

*But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. More than that, I also consider **everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value** of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ. Philippians 3:7-8*

*And my God will supply all your needs according to **his riches in glory** in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19;*

*I pray that he may grant you, according to **the riches of his glory**, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19*

Paul is **not** saying that money is evil. Our attachment to money poses a significant danger.

- Why do you work, if not for the accumulation of wealth?
- What worries you concerning money?
- How is God teaching you, and how are you actively learning to be content?
- How are you finding life with Christ to be all-sufficient?