

1 Timothy 6

Keep your nose straight, eyes focused and mouth shut...and wait on the Lord

I. Our Christian Duty to Employers

1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor...

- **Slave:** gr. *Doulos* Servant
 1. **Then:** **Slaves** count your **master** worthy of all honor
 2. **Today:** **Employees** count your **employer** worthy of all honor

We are to honor Christian and Non- Christian Bosses

Colossians 3:22 Bondservants, **obey in all things** your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Ephesians 6:5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, **as to the Lord**, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. 9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

- **Honor our employer...**

1b... so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.

Why? Honoring our boss honors God. Honor your boss so that...

1. **Name of God** is not blasphemed: God's character is seen in your example
2. **Word of God** is not blasphemed: What Bible teaches is exemplified by you

Are we leading people to Christ by our witness for Him at work?

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.

Don't take advantage of a Christian boss

- **Do not despise them** because they are Christian
 1. **Despise:** think little or nothing of
 2. Don't take advantage of your Christian bosses desire to be kind

We should never expect special treatment because our boss or supervisor is a Christian. Instead, that should motivate us to work all the harder, because we can then be a blessing to another brother. [Guzic]

- **Timothy:** Teach and exhort these things: **Work unto the Lord**
 1. **Teach:** Detailed instruction the congregation

2. **Exhort:** Call to one's side when people are having a hard time at work

SUMMARY Our Christian Duty to Employers

II. Doctrinal Error and its Relation to the Love of Money

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

- Teaches otherwise? Teachings contrary to chapters 1-6:3
- Not just from the pulpit:

Some of the most dangerous teaching in the church isn't done from a pulpit, but in informal, private conversations. [Guzic]

- **3 Categories of good teaching:**
 1. **Wholesome words:** Healthy life-giving vs. impure dirty and unhealthy
 2. **Words from Jesus Christ**
 3. **Doctrine that "accords with godliness"**
- **Godliness:** gr. *eusebeia* becoming more like Jesus

1 Timothy 3:16 ...without controversy great is the mystery of **godliness:** God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

Doctrine in accord/agreement with godliness: Teaching concerning Jesus
His Deity, Life, Death, and Resurrection

- **Those that teach things contrary to...**
 1. Wholesome words
 2. Direct teachings from Jesus
 3. Apostolic teaching about Jesus

4 [These are]... 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.

- **False Teachers are:**
 1. Proud
 2. Knows nothing
 3. Obsessed with disputes/arguments over words

Obsessed: gr. *noseō* def. ...lit. to be sick with, an ailment of the mind, to be taken with such an interest in a thing as amounts to a disease, to have a morbid fondness for [not asking questions to learn but to argue]

- Sick obsession to argue leads to everything leads to...
 - a. **Envy:** Jealousy of others especially leaders
 - b. **Strife with words:** Argue over empty/trifling matters with everyone
 - c. **Reviling:** Railings; i.e. slandering those who don't come to their "side"
 - d. **Evil Suspicions;** never thinking good of a person who is respected

- e. **Useless wrangling:** Perverse disputing, constant contention, meddlesome

Arguments not Salvation...exactly where Satan wants us

2 Timothy 3:1 ... in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and **never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

- v 5 **In summary: Those who teach doctrinal error...**
 1. **Do** have corrupt minds. Lit. *in the process* of corruption
 2. **Don't** have Truth
 3. **Do** have wrong motives...Greed

They suppose that godliness is a means of "Great Gain"

- Some see a crowd and see opportunity to share the Gospel
- Some see a crowd and see an opportunity to take advantage. Sad.
 1. **Word faith movement in Africa:** Presented as great gain for followers
 2. **False teachers:** Taking 1, 2, and 3 offerings?

From such withdraw yourself.

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

**A godly heart is a thankful heart and a thankful heart is a content heart.
Godliness with contentment is great gain**

- Are we satisfied in God alone:

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.**" [NOTE: Abraham was loaded]

...a frame of mind which was completely independent of all outward things, and which carried the secret of happiness within itself. Contentment never comes from the possession of external things." [Barclay]

Philippians 4:1 ... have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- **Brought nothing in/taking nothing out:** Never see a hearse pulling a U-Haul

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.

- **Desire to be rich:** Whether rich or poor
 1. Fall into temptation
 2. Trapped in snares
 3. Drawn by foolish/harmful lusts

...which drown men in destruction and perdition.

- Believed using religion for financial gain would satisfy
- **Self-Deception:** Their end is drowning; lit weighed down to the bottom of the ocean
- Judgment for lust for riches:
 1. **Destruction**
 2. **Perdition**

Matthew 4:18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

- **Deceitfulness of Riches:**
 1. Doesn't matter how many times we preach it
 2. Doesn't matter how many times we teach it
 3. Doesn't matter how many times we see it does not work...

We still believe money will make us happy

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.

- **Love of money: A** Root [source] of ALL KINDS OF EVIL
- When we "taste of the Lord" we must decide; serve money or serve Jesus

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- Those who choose money will never be content...

...and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- We can have riches but we cannot allow riches have us

SUMMARY Doctrinal Error and its Relation to the Love of Money

III. Fight the Good Fight with the Good Confession

- Motive of False-Teachers is greed. They will be judged in this life and the next.

11 **But you, O man of God,** flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

But NOT you ...Man of God...Flee!

- **Run away from:**
 1. Religious hypocrisy
 2. Greed
 3. Love of Money
- **Run to:**
 1. Righteousness
 2. Godliness
 3. Faith
 4. Love
 5. Patience
 6. 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.

- **Fight the Good Fight...lay hold of Eternity**
 1. God called you to Eternal Life
 2. You answered the call by **confessing Jesus**

Romans 1:16... I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes

- **Confess:** To agree with...

Romans 10:9...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- Timothy needs to conquer his timidity:

2 Timothy 1:7 ... God has **not given us a spirit of fear**, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.⁸ Therefore **do not be ashamed** of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God

"The Good Fight"

To continually confess Jesus as Lord in face of any/all opposition!

13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

- **I urge you "in the sight of God"** The One who gives life to all thing
- **I urge you "in the sight of Jesus"** Already "Fought the Good Fight" before Pilate

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "**You say rightly that I am a king**. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

John 19:10 Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I

have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" 11 Jesus answered, **"You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.** Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

**Courage does not mean not being afraid...
It means being afraid and doing it anyway!**

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...

- **Keep the commandment;** i.e. "Fight the Good Fight" Continue confessing Jesus in the midst of all opposition. Timothy, stay in Ephesus
 1. Be Courageous
 2. Stay Pure
 3. Be motivated by Love not greed
 4. Remain blameless **until Jesus comes back!**

**Paul believed Jesus could return at any time...
Doctrine of the Imminent return of Jesus for His church: Rapture**

- Paul now magnifies the Lord for Timothy to see Him clearly

15b...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.

- Paul magnifies Jesus for Timothy get a good look and grow in faith and courage
- **Jesus is...**
 1. The Blessed and Only Potentate
 2. King of kings and Lord of lords
 3. Jesus alone Possesses immortality to share with those who receive/believe
 4. Jesus dwells in inapproachable Light whom no man can see
 - a) Those in Christ can approach the inapproachable God

Ephesians 3:12 in [Jesus] we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Hebrews 4:6 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

5. Jesus is to be honored
6. We are to be in awe of Jesus Everlasting power

Timothy...Magnify the Lord

SUMMARY Fight the Good Fight with the Good Confession

IV. Instructions to the Christian Rich

- **Oxymoron:** Figure of speech in which 2 opposite ideas are joined to create an effect.

Jumbo shrimp
Synthetic natural gas

Computer security
Political science

Passive aggression
Taped live
Clearly misunderstood
Peace force
Extinct life
Temporary tax increase
Plastic glasses
Terribly pleased

Tight slacks
Definitely maybe
Twelve-ounce pound cake
Diet ice cream
Working vacation
Exact estimate
Microsoft Works
Airline food

“Rich Christian” is *not* an oxymoron

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

- **Instructions for believer’s that are rich**

1. Don’t be haughty/ Don’t trust in riches but in God

God is the One who gives us richly all things to enjoy!

- **Enjoy but remember:**

1. People are more important than stuff
2. God is most important

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.

- **Teach the rich:**

1. Do good
2. Be generous in good works
 - a) Ready to give
 - b) Ready to share
3. Store up a “good foundation” for the “time to come”; i.e. heaven

Brought nothing in/take nothing out...but we can send ahead. Currency of Heaven is Love

Matthew 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. [Stay]

- ...that they may **lay hold on eternal life.**

V12 Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life**

Fight of Faith for the rich? Not trusting riches...not coveting with their eyes

Matthew 6:22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal

to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- Fight covetousness/greed by giving, sharing; not putting trust in uncertain riches

Proverbs 23:5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle toward heaven. [reversal]

SUMMARY Instructions to the Christian Rich

V. Guard the Faith

20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—

1 Timothy Concluding Instructions

- **O Timothy!** Guard what you have been trusted with...**Truth**
 1. Avoid profane babblings
 2. Avoid idle babblings
 3. Avoid those who contradict Scripture with false-doctrine...

21 by professing [false-doctrine] some have strayed concerning the faith.

- **Guard yourself from false teachers**...some have already fallen!
- Don't listen to false-teaching for any reason...**YOU ARE THE TEACHER**

Profess the Truth to those who listen but don't waste your time with those who will
...argue and twist your words

Matthew 7:6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

Don't waste time with those who think they already have the truth!

Mark 2:17 "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

- **Stay in Ephesus:** [1:3]
 1. Stay away from false teachers
 2. Draw near to with those who know their desperate need of a Savior

21b... Grace be with you. Amen.

- 1 Timothy begins and ends with grace...Gods unmerited favor on the least likely

1 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Instructions to a young Pastor regarding the Household of God; the congregation
- Practical Teaching regarding:
 1. Church Government
 2. Church Order
 3. Church Discipline

4. Qualifications for Church Leaders
5. Motives of False Teaching vs. True Teaching
6. Instruction in Interpersonal Relationships
7. Encouragement to Press on, Press in and Love Truth