

House Rules
Functioning as the Church
Week 13: Contentment and Cash

Scripture

1 Timothy 6:3-10, 17-19

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

What were the reasons for Paul's writing?

- To confront false teachers (1 Timothy 1)
- To establish proper conduct (1 Timothy 2)
- To provide qualifications for church leadership (1 Timothy 3)
- To warn those abandoning the faith (1 Timothy 4:1-5)
- To care for the church, elders, and widows (1 Timothy 4:6-5:16)
- To instruct about conflict/confrontation (1 Timothy 5:1-2, 19-25)

Information (What They Need to Know)

Paul ends his letter to Timothy where he began – warning about the false teachers.

1 Timothy 1:3 (ESV) As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, **4** nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.

In closing, Paul provided **three characteristics of false teachers ...**

- **Teach those things that contradict the Scriptures**
1 Timothy 6:3 (ESV) If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound [*healthy*] words of our Lord Jesus Christ...
- **Their teaching doesn't lead people to live godly lives**
1 Timothy 6:3 (ESV) If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with...the teaching that accords with godliness [*godly heart response*] ...
- **Motivated by attention-seeking controversy, chaos, and cash (greed)**
1 Timothy 6:4 (ESV) ...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, **5** and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

“Greed was their core motivation. In that day the stipends associated with ministry were attractive, so that even the best men had to be warned against letting personal gain creep into their motivation. Congregational leaders were to be chosen from those known for their ‘freedom from the love of money’ (1 Tim. 3:3).”
– Bible Knowledge Commentary

Based on the false teachers’ motivation for selfish gain, Paul then moves into a teaching concerning the proper view of money and possessions.

Declarations we need to make concerning money and possessions...

- I have been given everything I need for contentment (in Christ)

1 Timothy 6:6 (ESV) But godliness with contentment is great gain, **7** for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. **8** But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

2 Peter 1:3 (NLT) By his divine power, *God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.* We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

- I will not find purpose in being rich and understand its destructive nature

1 Timothy 6:9 (ESV) 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.

- I will be aware of the effects of loving money on my faith

1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV) 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.

Application (What They Need to Do)

- If I have money, I will keep a godly perspective

1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV) As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. **18** They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

- ✓ Reject pride and dependence on money
- ✓ Realize that good things come from God for us to enjoy (from His hand)
- ✓ Remain open-handed to do good
- ✓ Focus on how your money can make an eternal difference