

Sermon Notes 8/7/22

“Finding Contentment”

How can we practice contentment?

1. We can be content with our _____.

1 Timothy 6:1

Titus 2:9-10

2. We can be content with _____.

1 Timothy 6:6

1 Timothy 6:3-5

3. We can be content with what _____.

1 Timothy 6:8

Hebrews 13:5



“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”-Hebrews 13:5

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 13: August 7-17

1 Timothy 6:1-10

Many people try to find contentment by getting richer. Instead of being thankful for all the blessing they have, they focus on what they don't have. But true contentment does not come from getting more stuff (Luke 12:15). Studies have shown that "materialistic people are less happy than their peers. They experience fewer positive emotions, are less satisfied with life, and suffer higher levels of anxiety, depression, and substance abuse."¹ True contentment is not an emotion caused by external circumstances. True contentment is a character trait that we must develop and practice. It is the decision to be thankful and joyful for the blessings we have in Christ. In 1 Timothy 6, Paul tells us how to practice true contentment.

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-10

1. Why did God tell Christian slaves to respect their masters? (6:1)

The Bible gives instructions to both slaves and masters. However, this does not mean that God approves of slavery. The Bible gives instructions about divorce even though God hates divorce (Matt. 19:3-9; Mal. 2:16). We should also recognize that slavery in the Bible was not like the slavery in early American history. Slavery in the Bible was not the result of racism or kidnapping. People often sold themselves into slavery in order to pay off their debts. Some people voluntarily became slaves because they knew their masters would take good care of them.

Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell note,

By the time of the Christian era and the writing of 1 and 2 Timothy, sweeping changes had been introduced that radically improved the treatment of slaves. Slaves under first-century Roman law could generally count on eventually being set free...

¹ Dacher Keltner and Jason Marsh, "How Gratitude Beats Materialism," *Greater Good*, January 8, 2015.

Furthermore, while the slave remained his master's possession, he could own property—including other slaves! A slave completely controlled his own property and could invest and save to purchase his own freedom.²

2. Why might Christian slaves show less respect to Christian masters than they would to non-Christian masters? (6:2)

3. What motivation did Christian slaves have to be good workers for their Christian masters? (6:2)

While these passages about slaves and masters may seem strange to us, they still include principles that are true and relevant for us today. Whether we are employees or employers, our work is an opportunity to serve God and become more like Jesus (Col. 3:23).

4. How did Paul describe false doctrines in verse 3?

C. Michael Moss writes,

Paul describes this teaching which differs from the gospel as not agreeing with “the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ” or with “godly teaching.” The word “sound” literally is “healthy” (cf. 1:10). The word “instruction” (λόγοις, *logois*) is literally “words.” These “healthy words” come from Jesus (notice the full title for Jesus, “our Lord Jesus Christ”) but need not indicate that Timothy is reading from one of the gospels.³

5. What did Paul identify as the “unhealthy interest” of the false teachers in verse 4?

6. What were the false teachers trying to gain in verse 5?

7. According to verse 6, when does godliness bring us great gain?

² R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1–2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 145-146.

³ C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 116.

William Mounce observes,

Behind the opponents' façade, their supposed intellectualism and false piety, lies the real motivation for their ministry: they want to make money... Paul has already commended paying for Christian services (1 Tim 5:17), so his concern is not that there is money involved. However, from vv 6-10 it is obvious that the love of money and the central place it holds in the opponents' lives constitute the real problem.⁴

8. What observation about our lives did Paul make in verse 7?
9. With what should we be content? (6:8)
10. What warning does Paul give to those who want to get rich? (6:9)
11. What did Paul say about "the love of money" in verse 10?
12. What happens to some people who are eager for money? (6:10)
13. Why is it important for Christians to have a good work ethic and treat their employers with respect?
14. How do people today use religion as a way to get rich?
15. When has it been difficult for you to be content?
16. How has God helped you to be content in difficult times?
17. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is money to you?
18. Why do you think that money is important or not very important?
19. How will you guard against "an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels"?
20. In what area of life will you ask God to help you be more content?

⁴ William Mounce, *Word Biblical Commentary: Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016), 340.