



“When Enough is Enough”

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April 26, 2026

I. The Warning About the _____

1 Timothy 6:3-4a “If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.”

A. Do They Teach _____ Doctrine?

(1 Timothy 1:10, 6:3b)

2 Timothy 1:13 “Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”

Titus 1:9 “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

Titus 2:1 “But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.”

B. What Do They Teach About _____?

John 14:3-4 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

John 14:5 “Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’”

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Matthew 7:17 “So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.”

Jeremiah 21:8b “Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.”

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”

C. What is Their _____ Like?

(1 Timothy 6:4-5)

1. Deprived in the _____

2. Deprived of the _____

3. Only Interested in Financial Gain

II. The _____ to the Wolves

A. The Secret of True Gain - Godliness With _____

1 Timothy 6:6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain”

Philippians 4:11b-13 “I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

1. Steady In Your _____

2. Gracious In Your _____

3. Content In Your _____

Hebrews 13:5 “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

Ecclesiastes 5:10 “He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.”

1 Timothy 6:7-8 “for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”

1 Timothy 6:9 “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.”

1 Timothy 6:10 “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.”

B. A Better _____

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

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”



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BACKGROUND:

In *1 Timothy 6:3-10* we see Paul continue to build Timothy up as a church leader and disciple of Christ by encouraging him to teach that godliness should be pursued over greed. Paul reminds Timothy (and us) that a godly life is defined by our relationship with God. He warns Timothy that there are several factors in the church that can threaten that relationship, such as, teaching that godliness is a means of gain, quarrels and in-fighting, discontentment, and the love of money—each of which is a result of greed.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Jesus commissioned His church to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them His commands (Matthew 28:19-20). John said we know God if we keep His commands (1 John 2:3). However, it is His teachings and commands that are commonly under spiritual attack both outside of and within the church. In Galatians 1:6 Paul rebukes the church in Galatia for accepting a different gospel than the one authored by Jesus. In many churches there are alternative doctrines, even gospels, being taught that are contrary to the sound words of Jesus.

1. What is “the teaching that accords with godliness” (*1 Timothy 6:3*)? How can you discern between God’s teaching and men’s?
2. What are some teachings that you’ve become aware of that are contrary to living a godly life?
3. What is the danger of accepting a gospel that is different than the one preached by the apostles?

Paul warns Timothy that when a disciple is not aligned with Jesus’ commands, it can result in conceit and a lack of understanding which will often lead to controversy, quarrels, friction, and dissention. All of which Satan can use to cause division in a church.

4. Read *James 4:1-3*. What does James identify as the cause of fights and quarrels among believers? How can bickering and arguing over the things of this world threaten our relationship with God and others?
5. Fighting itself is not sinful. There are noble and good reasons that a disciple should fight for. What might some of those be?
6. How do you choose when and where to stand firm and fight?

The Ten Commandments instruct us not to covet (*Exodus 20:17*). Coveting occurs when we become discontented with what God has given us. God wants us to be content with His provisions. We should be satisfied with the bare necessities, because our riches are secured in Christ (*Colossians 1:27; Ephesians 3:8*). Paul is warning Timothy that discontentment, greed, and coveting provide the soil of a heart where sin can take root and choke out godliness.

7. What does it mean that godliness with contentment is great gain (*1 Timothy 6:6*)?
8. Read *Philippians 4:11-12*. What is the secret that Paul learned? How might you encourage others to adopt a similar attitude?
9. How is a false gospel like the “Prosperity Gospel” rooted in discontentment?

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). Our heart follows our treasure. The Rich Young Ruler’s treasure was his earthly possessions (Matthew 19:16-30). Money became his idol. He broke the first commandment, “to have no other Gods” (Exodus 20:3). *1 Timothy 6:10* is commonly misquoted. It is not “money is the root of all evil”, but rather “the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil”. Sin is the root of all evil. The love of money is the root of certain evils.

10. What are some kinds of evil that you’ve witnessed or experienced (or even struggled with in your own life) due to the love of money?
11. Read *Matthew 6:24*. What did Jesus mean by “No one can serve two masters”?
12. How would you describe the spiritual condition of someone who loves money?
13. What’s the danger in unjustly judging someone who is rich?

TAKING IT HOME:

Man’s greed extends well beyond money. We tend to be greedy for what we desire—the desire of the eyes, the desire of the flesh, and the pride of life (*1 John 2:16*). Jesus had many warnings against greed. “Be on your guard against all kinds of greed” ... “Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth” ... “You cannot serve both God and money” (*Luke 12:15; Matthew 6:19, 24*). Greed brings destruction because it is unquenchable. When we combine godliness and contentment, we discover the great gain or abundant life Jesus promises us in *John 10:10*.

14. *Romans 12:1* instructs us to offer our lives as an act of worship. How can we protect our lives from the temptations of greed?
15. How might you advise someone who is struggling with discontentment?