



Go for God!

“Leadership In Christian Pursuits!”

1 TIMOTHY Chapter 6

~ FOUR CHRISTIAN PURSUITS:

- > #1 – GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT! (v1-10)**
- > #2 – THE GOOD CONFESSION! (v11-16)**
- > #3 – BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS! (v17-19)**
- > #4 – BE ON GUARD! (v20-21)**

> Christian Pursuit #1 – GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT! (v1-10)

(v1-2) “*slavery*” - Slavery was widespread in the Roman Empire (according to some estimates, slaves constituted one-third, perhaps more, of the population) and an accepted part of life. In Paul’s day, slavery had virtually eclipsed free labor. Slaves could be doctors, musicians, teachers, artists, librarians, or accountants; in short, almost all jobs could be and were filled by slaves.

Slaves were not legally considered persons, but were the tools of their masters. As such, they could be bought, sold, inherited, exchanged, or seized to pay their master’s debt. Their masters had virtually unlimited power to punish them, and sometimes did so severely for the slightest infractions. By the time of the NT, however, slavery was beginning to change. Realizing that contented slaves were more productive, masters tended to treat them more leniently. It was not uncommon for a master to teach a slave his own trade, and some masters and slaves became close friends. While still not recognizing them as persons under the law, the Roman Senate in A.D. 20 granted slaves accused of crimes the right to a trial. It also became more common for slaves to be granted (or to purchase) their freedom. Some slaves enjoyed very favorable and profitable service under their masters and were better off than many freemen because they were assured of care and provision. Many freemen struggled in poverty.

The NT nowhere directly attacks slavery; had it done so, the resulting slave insurrections would have been brutally suppressed and the message of the gospel hopelessly confused with that of social reform. Instead, Christianity undermined the evils of slavery by changing the hearts of slaves and masters. By stressing the spiritual equality of master and slave (v. 16; Gal 3:28; Eph 6:9; Col 4:1; 1Ti 6:1, 2), the Bible did away with slavery’s abuses. The rich theological theme that alone dominates the letter is forgiveness, a featured theme throughout NT Scripture (cf. Mt 6:12–15; 18:21–35; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13). Paul’s instruction here provides the biblical definition of forgiveness, without ever using the word.

(v3) “wholesome words” – Speaks of healthy words, to be uncorrupt (true in doctrine); to be safe and sound, to be whole. The key phrase here is, *even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness.*

(v4-5) False teachers are:

- Proud
- Scripturally inept
- Obsessed with disputes / argumentative over words
- Envious
- Full of strife, reviling evil suspicions, useless wranglings
- Of corrupt minds
- Destitute off the truth
- Think godliness is for great gain

(v9-10) “desire to be rich” / “love of money”

- In Matthew 4:8-10 - *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”*

- Jesus shares in the “Sermon on the Mount” in 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.”*

- Jesus shares in the “Parable of the Sower” in Matthew 13:22 – *“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”*

> Christian Pursuit #2 - THE GOOD CONFESSION!

(v11) “*O man of God*” – The man of God is known by what he:

- (1) flees from (v11)
- (2) follows after (v11)
- (3) fights for (v12)
- (4) is faithful to (v13-14)

- What are the pursuits of the man of God: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

(12a) We are to “fight the good fight” – The Gr. Word for “fight” gives us the English word “agonize,” and was used in both military and athletic endeavors to describe the concentration, discipline, and extreme effort needed to win. The “good fight of faith” is the spiritual conflict with Satan’s kingdom of darkness in which all men of God are necessarily involved.

(12b) “lay hold of eternal life” – In Philippians 3:20-21 we read - *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

(v13) “Jesus’ confession” – Listen to this exchange in John 18:33-37 - *Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered him, “Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?” 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.” 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.”*

- Jesus fought the good fight and was victorious! Listen to Hebrews 2:14-15 - *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

- Hebrews 12:1-2 - *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

> Christian Pursuit #3 – BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS! (v17-19)

- Jesus said in 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.”*

> Christian Pursuit #4 – BE ON GUARD! (v20-21)

- We are to guard the TRUTH! Truth about God, His Creation, His Scriptures, His Son, His death, His resurrection, His salvation!

- Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 - *For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”