

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders**Today's Message: Prioritize Guarding the Faith and Pursuing Godliness; 1 Timothy 6:3-10**

Paul began this letter by stressing to Timothy that he would have a fight on his hands in engaging the false teachers and their false doctrine. Nevertheless, Timothy would have to stand firm in the truth and grow in godliness.

In our text today Paul returns to the issue of the danger of allowing a platform for false teachers to teach their false doctrine in the church. Paul knows, as should we, that the negative influence both in doctrine and lifestyle of the false teacher will have a negative effect on the ability of the church body to grow in both knowledge of the Truth and in godliness. On the other hand, we can learn that growing in both knowledge of the Truth and in godliness purifies the church creating among the saints peace, love, genuine care, and multiplied joy! So, listen carefully today.

- I) **(6:3-5) Paul examines the dangerous characteristics of false teachers.**
- A) (v3) A biblical definition of "false doctrine."
 - 1) Any teaching that deviates from the sound words of Christ Jesus.
 - (a) The words of God the Son, have all authority (2 Timothy 3:16, Colossians 3:16).
 - (i) 1 Timothy 6:3 reminds us to adhere to the Word of God without deviating.
 - B) (vv4-5) The dangerous characteristics of false teachers.
 - 1) They reject the truth (6:3), conceited and lack understanding.
 - (a) Conceited: puffed up wind bags; useless words.
 - (b) They sound like they know what they are talking about but know nothing.
 - (i) Jude 1:12: likens them to "storms without rain.
 - 2) (6:4b) They are "sick minded" being satisfied when they stir up disputes and arguments.
 - (a) These are the kind that love to pour gas on a fire—stir up controversies. Quarrels over oddities.
 - (i) 2 Timothy 2:23-24: Don't have anything to do with stupid and foolish (controversial) arguments. God's servant must not quarrel
 - (b) Timothy is being cautioned: if he lets this go on, the whole church will be quarrelsome and controversial.
 - 3) (6:4c-5) False teacher's tactics: a church divided, and good relationships ruined. They stir up...
 - (a) Envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions, constant friction between men of corrupt minds.
 - (i) Your mind can be easily corrupted the further you drift from sound doctrine.
 - (ii) Guard yourself: obey 2 Timothy 2:23: "Have nothing to do with foolish and stupid arguments
 - (b) APPL: where arguments and disputes are allowed fidelity to God and each other erodes.
 - 4) Fourth characteristic: they have one treasure (and its not Jesus Christ)—its money.
 - (a) In Acts 8:18-23 Simon the Sorcerer wanted the spiritual power as a means to "financial gain."
- II) **(6:6-8) Paul explains the characteristics of true godliness.**
- A) Key point: The strength of true godliness is anchored in the Word of Christ (see 6:3).
 - B) Key proposition: (v6) "Godliness with contentment is great gain."
 - 1) "godliness" means *a likeness to God* marked by reverence, goodness, holiness and virtue.
 - 2) "contentment" Easily contented with God's personal sufficiency.
 - (a) God is able to make all grace abound in every good work. (see 2 Cor. 9:8; Proverbs 11:25)
 - (b) Being content is a sign of maturing faith and trust in God. (**see Phil. 4:11-13**).
 - 3) To do this you must pray prioritize God's sufficiency to care for you.
 - (a) **Read Philippians 4:11-13**
 - C) Key principle: (vv7-8) Godliness holds firmly to a biblical perspective of material needs.
 - 1) Fix in your mind the truth that everything you can see, feel and touch is temporary, like dust.
 - (a) "We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it."
 - (b) Matthew 6:19-21: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasure in heaven where moths and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For..."

III) **(6:9-10) Paul exposes the characteristics of people who love money.**

- A) Key point: (v9) Paul exposes the dangers of abandoning a biblical wealth ethic, exchanging it for a love of money.
- 1) Traps and temptations are assured by God!
 - (a) When producing wealth becomes an obsession, it becomes a stumbling block.
 - (b) **Growing in godliness takes the second seat, then the third and fourth seat in your life.**
 - 2) Consequences: ruined relationship with God, with family, with church family, etc.
 - 3) APPL: See Matthew 6:21: “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
 - (a) Where are you directing most of your energy in life?
 - (i) What will you do to safeguard your godward priority?
- B) Key Proposition: (v10) “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.”
- 1) Money and wealth is not evil in itself. But does it arouse you to sinful greed and a lust for more?
 - (a) Sin is divided into three main categories rooted in “love of the world”: **see 1 John 2:15-17.**
 - 2) Lusting after more and more will lead you down a road of spiritual ruin.
 - (a) Paul says, “They have pierced themselves with many griefs.”
 - (i) OT example: the story of Achan in Joshua 7. See Joshua 7:20-26
 - 3) Be wise and faithful with what God has provided for you.
 - (a) In place of greed, pray for a heart inclined toward generosity.
 - (b) You can’t outgive God. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!

IV) **Conclusion: Developing and pursuing a life of godliness.**

- A) What are you doing to develop and pursue a life of true godliness?
- 1) What priority does prayer, and the Scripture play in your life?
 - 2) Can you identify your most vulnerable area of discontentment?
 - (a) What do you want so badly that you are willing to sin to get it?
 - (b) What do you want so badly that you will turn a deaf ear and blind eye to God’s Word, neglecting prayer as well?
 - 3) If your inner most thoughts regarding money was exposed right now, would any of us here see Jesus as your highest treasure?
 - (a) What would we see?
 - 4) Let me encourage you if you are struggling.
 - (a) God is perfectly willing to forgive you and grow you up, and to produce a heart to treasure Christ!
 - 5) If you are afraid that you won’t have *enough*, learn this: “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and everything you need will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)