

## 1 Timothy 6.3-21

### Final warning regarding false teachers – vss. 3-5

(“Teach and urge these things (vs. 2b).” probably goes with what is previous not what follows.)

- Teaching that contradicts Jesus’s words (which are “sound” / “healthy”) and does not promote godliness (again used in the sense of true religion) comes from unhealthy, ungodly heart.
- Characteristics of where this ungodly, unhealthy, false teaching comes from:
  - Puffed up with conceit – vs. 4
  - Understands nothing – vs. 4
  - Unhealthy craving for controversy and quarrels – vs. 4
  - This pathological conceit, ignorance, controversy, etc. produces envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant personal friction. – vs. 5
  - This pathological conceit, ignorance, controversy, etc. appeals to those who are depraved in their minds, lack the truth, and consider religion to be a process for getting what you want.

### Godliness with contentment vs. the love of money – vss. 6-10

- True godliness is great gain... - vs. 6
  - And those gains are spelled out in 1 Timothy 4.8.
- The basis of contentment is an eternal perspective:
  - We brought nothing into the world and we’ll take nothing out – vs. 7
  - We should be content with the basics – vs. 8
  - A desire to be rich leads to serious spiritual temptations and can have eternal consequences – vs. 9
  - **Proverbial statement** – “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil”
  - Some who have craved money have completely left the faith and caused themselves great spiritual harm. – vs. 10

### Final charge to Timothy: FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT – vss. 11-14

- Timothy contrasted with the money loving false teachers – vs. 11a
- The phrase “man of God (vs. 11a)”:
  - OT usage:
    - Deuteronomy 33.1, Joshua 14.6 – Moses
    - 1 Kings 17.18 & 24, 2 Kings 1.9-13, 4.7-42 – Elijah
    - 2 Kings 5-7 – Elisha
    - Various unnamed prophets
  - Only used 2x in NT: here and 2 Timothy 3.17 (a man of God must be “Word-centered”)
  - This is an honor for Timothy to be described as a “man of God.”
- Timothy is to flee the bad character qualities of the money loving false teachers and to pursue the godly character qualities listed in 6.11b: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. – vs. 11b

- Rapid fire exhortations:
  - Fight the good fight – vs. 12a
  - Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called – vs. 12b (good example of “compatibilism”)
  - Keep the commandment, while remaining unstained by reproach. – vs. 14a
  - Timothy is to follow these instructions until Jesus returns! – vs. 14b

### **Doxology – vss. 15-16**

To add solemnity to the charge given to Timothy, Paul rehearses the glories of God:

- Blessed and only Sovereign – vs. 15a
- King of kings and Lord of lords – vs. a5b
- Who alone has immortality – vs. 16a
- Who dwells in unapproachable light – vs. 16b
- Whom no one has seen or can see – vs. 16c
- Who deserves to receive all honor and eternal dominion – vs. 16d
- This Paul’s heart soring with the glory of God!

### **Some instructions to those who are rich – vss. 17-19**

- Avoid pride – vs. 17a
- Trust God – vs. 17b
- Remember God’s provision – vs. 17c
- Pursue good works, especially generosity – vs. 18
- This will store up true riches in heaven – vs. 19

### **Closing words to Timothy – vss. 20-21**

- What to guard: “the good deposit” i.e. the true gospel received from Christ through His apostle - vs. 20a
- What to avoid: vs. 20b
  - Irreverent babble
  - Contradictions
  - False knowledge
  - These are more strong words that still describe false teaching.
  - The end result is leaving the faith – vs. 21a
- Farewell in the grace of God – vs. 21b