

1 Timothy 6:1-11 – Masters, Misleaders, & Money-Seekers

Michael Silva / July 23, 2017

Opening: Interviewing for a job can be intimidating...

- A guy goes in for a job interview and sits down with the boss over the open position.
- The boss asks, “What do you think is your worst quality?”
- The man says, “I’m probably too honest.”
- The boss says, “That’s not a bad thing, I think being honest is a good quality.”
- The man replies, “I don’t care about what you think!”
 - Okay... too honest!
- Part of our passage today directs us to honor those we work for.

Transition: We are on a Journey... through the book of 1 Timothy, which has a lot to say about church leadership, doctrine, and **discipleship**.

1. These words set the standard for pastors and church leaders.
 - a) These are important expectations of those who serve.
 - b) But these instructions are **not** exclusive to leaders, every Christian should aspire to embrace and walk in the standards Paul lays out in our passage today.
2. Our passage today has addresses Masters, Misleaders, and Money-Seekers...

Let's read our passage: 1 Timothy 6:1-11 (NKJV)ⁱ And Pray...

1. Last Week... Paying and protecting the Pastor and remembering that God sees all we do.

1 Timothy 6:1 ¹ Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.

1. Here Paul has in view the working relationship between Master & Slave, something that was common in the ancient Roman Empire.
 - a) Slaves, or **bondservants** filled roles such as property managers, cooks, artisans, and teachers as well as that of menial servants.
 - i) Many slaves were regarded as part of the family in which they belonged.

- b) I have had friends who have been the pastor over large churches with many church employees and it has been a common theme that employees of the church did not work hard.
 - i) They regularly came in late and didn't do much while they were at work during the week.
 - ii) These things should not be so.
- c) **Colossians 3:22–24** ²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

2. Paul exhorts Timothy to **Teach and exhort these things** to those in Ephesus.

- a) We all need to understand that this is important in God's eyes.

Now Paul transitions to Misleaders... 1 Timothy 6:3-5a ³ If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴ he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵ useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*...

- 1. False teachers do not properly handle and apply the Word of God and **our Lord Jesus Christ**.
 - a) Some Misleaders like to ignore what God's Word says. They speak of things that sound "spiritual" yet ignoring what God's Word truly says.
 - i) Others deny God's Word.
 - ii) Or they explain away God's Word, offering a clever explanation as to why God's Word does not apply in this current setting.
 - iii) Some even use God's Word to just stir up strife and conflict.
- 2. Misleaders are often, but not always **proud**.
 - a) The word **proud** derives from a root word in Greek meaning **smoke**.
 - b) From this we have gotten our modern phrases "Blowing smoke" or "full of hot air." (MacArthur)
 - c) This word **proud** also implies **arrogance**, which is an ugly thing in the eyes of the Lord.
 - i) **1 Samuel 2:3** Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.

3. Misleaders know **nothing**, says Paul, but are **obsessed with disputes and arguments over words**.
 - a) Have you met those who like to pose “deep theological” questions, but all they are doing is **stirring the pot** rather than seeking to help others understand.
 - b) They thrive on drama and conflict.
 - c) These types of people produce **envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings**.
 - i) This is the fruit of their work. They are **men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth**. They lack genuine faith.
 - ii) Sadly, they **suppose that godliness is a means of gain**.
 - iii) They either like the **pride** that comes from their position...
 - iv) Or the **money** that is supposed to support those who, according to 1 Tim 5:17, rule well and labor in the word and doctrine.

Concerning such false teachers and misleaders Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:5b **From such withdraw yourself.**

1. No graciously coexisting with them, nor are we to take up arms against them.
2. Instead we are to **withdraw yourself** from them. Grab your **parachute** and **jump**.
 - a) There should be a line of separation between those who follow the Word and those who teach otherwise.

1 Timothy 6:6 **⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain.**

1. False teachers see **godliness** as a means to material gain.
 - a) Paul says that true **godliness**, or God-likeness, is **great gain** when coupled with **contentment**.
 - b) Contentment is not about what you have down here, but what we have up there (in heaven) with God.
 - c) We often think that it would be easy to be content once we get that pay raise or after we pay off that debt.
 - i) But contentment says I’m okay with what I have because I’m not focused on what I have.
 - d) Contentment is all about your focus.
 - i) Yesterday we went to Anna Maria Island and there was rain passing through the area.
 - ii) At one point half the sky to the south looked great, but to the north is was dark.

2. Making it personal: What is your focus on? How can you re-focus to cultivate godliness with contentment for great gain?

1 Timothy 6:7-8 ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

1. Job, in the midst of his suffering reminds us of this reality... **Job 1:21** And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."
2. See **Matthew 6:27-33** – Sermon on the Mount – worrying about clothing.

Next Paul Address Money-Seekers... 1 Timothy 6:9-10 ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1. Godliness with contentment is great gain, which is contrasted with the pursuit of riches, which is a snare... which can drown men in destruction and perdition.
 - a) Sad news story in Cocoa Beach where authorities are trying to figure out what to do with a group of teens who mocked and filmed a disabled man drowning in a pond.
 - i) They didn't help him and he died.
 - b) Paul uses the imagery of someone drowning when he warns of the danger of pursuing riches.
 - c) John D. **Rockefeller** once said, "I have made many millions, but they have brought me no happiness."
 - d) Henry **Ford** remarked, "I was happier doing mechanics work."
2. Note, what's the evil that Paul addresses?
 - a) This is often misquoted... It does not say, "Money is the root of all evil."
 - b) It says, Vs 10, For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.
 - c) A love for money, not money itself.
 - d) Rarely does one who is pursuing riches say that he has enough.
 - e) Just one more, or just a little more are the phrases that have led some have strayed from the faith in their greediness.

- f) The fruit of greediness is often sorrows, why?
 - i) Because money and earthly possessions will never satisfy the soul.

3. Making it personal: Do you have a healthy handle on your finances?

- a) Are you more passionate about your IRA than about what God is doing in your life right now?
- b) Do you need to make any attitude adjustments moving forward?

1 Timothy 6:11 ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

1. Paul says that the man of God should pursue...

- a) righteousness – Personal integrity, as a part of our character. (Wiersbe)
- b) godliness – Practical piety, as a part of our conduct.
- c) faith – Without faith it is impossible to please Him (Heb 11:6).
- d) love – This is agape love, the self-sacrificing love that thinks of others before myself.
- e) patience – which has the idea of “endurance” or sticking to it even when things are tough.
- f) gentleness – which implies strength under control.

Conclusion: What’s the big take away from this passage?

1. We have so much in view here to work on!

- a) Could we be better employees?
- b) Are we avoiding false teachers and misleaders?
- c) Are we money seekers or are we honoring God by the way we handle our finances?

2. Let’s partner together for God’s glory in our pursuit of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, & gentleness?

ⁱ All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson. Hebrew and Greek definitions, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, Copyright 1995 Woodside Bible Fellowship