



BIBLE COLLEGE GRADUATION SERVICE (APC CENTRAL)

Sunday April 30, 2017
1 Timothy Series
Chapter 6 : Godliness With Contentment

We continue our study on 1 Timothy and will cover the last chapter, chapter 6 today.

We also felt that it would be best to continue looking at 2 Timothy over the next month. So over May, we will cover the 4 chapters in 2 Timothy, one chapter each Sunday.

Lets Read 1 Timothy chapter 6

Now lets study this chapter.

For our study, we will divide the chapter into six sections, based on what is being addressed:

Workplace Relationships (vs 1-2)

Words of Truth (vs 3-5)

Godliness with contentment (vs 6-10)

The Life of a man of God (vs 11-16)

Responsibilities of the Rich (vs 17-19)

Guard What Has Been Entrusted (vs 20-21)

Workplace Relationships

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.

2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

Employees are to honor (respect) their employers (bosses, supervisors) so that the name of the Lord is glorified and not dishonored. This is so important. What and how we work is itself a testimony to the Lord and is an opportunity for us to glorify God in the workplace.

Outsiders must not blame God or the Church for the wrong behavior of Christians in the workplace.

When working for a believer boss - you have to serve them well, even more, and must not take advantage of them.

Paul encourages Timothy to "teach and exhort these things" - things about how to live as a believer in the workplace. At APC we do have a strong emphasis on this area. We hold workshops, seminars, preach sermons and print books on what the Bible teaches us about the workplace and how we ought to engage as believers in the marketplace.



Words of Truth

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. From such withdraw yourself.

WE must address such matters of Christian living in everyday life - at church (chapters 3&5), at home (chapter 5), in relating to widows, in extended family relationships, in workplace relationships, etc. and teach "wholesome word" (truthful words or words of truth). This is teaching that is aligned to godliness.

IF we do not do such teaching, then we simply engage in arguments over mere words which, are essentially arguments (wranglings) that come out of corrupt (rotten, decayed) minds and devoid of the truth.

Such people think that godliness is a means for making money. Stay away from such people.

You can be godly and have money.

You can be godly and make money.

But you must not use godliness - our walk of faith - as a means to make money for yourself.

Godliness with contentment

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

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.

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.

A very important Scripture on how to live our lives: godliness with contentment is great wealth. Contentment is simply being satisfied with what we have

<share example of contentment>

Philippians 4:11-13

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Be grateful for what you have.

Stop comparing yourself with others, especially in terms of material possessions.



While there is nothing wrong with having a godly motivation for success, increase, growth, etc. we must be aware of the dangers.

Psalms 1:3, Psalm 112:3, Isaiah 1:19, Isaiah 48:17 and several other Scriptures reveal to us that God will bless and prosper His people.

However, if our desire is to be rich...with no godliness with contentment....then we are setting ourselves up falling into temptations, snares, foolish and harmful lusts (desires) which can lead to destruction (ruin) and perdition (ruin, eternal damnation).

The love of money (greediness, desire to be rich) can give birth to all kinds of evil...and cause some to stray from the faith...

The Life of a Man of God

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

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

In view of these potential dangers and how some abuse the faith for making personal gain, Paul admonishes Timothy to "flee" run quickly and speedily away from such things...

It is so important for a minister of God, and also all of us believers, to guard ourselves from the 'love of money' and such things.

Instead focus on such things as righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness, and fight the good fight of faith, keeping a firm grip on what is eternal.

The apostle Paul points Timothy (and us) to the Lord Jesus Christ who set the example for us Himself in not going back on His call, purpose and testimony even when brought before Pontius Pilate, ...and then points us to His exalted position and soon return. In view of this pursue what is eternal, hold fast to your confession of faith.

Responsibilities of the Rich

17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.



Of course God does bless His people, and those believers who are rich have a responsibility to do good, to be generous and knowing that as they give away their temporal earthly wealth, they are laying up for themselves what is eternal.

In Philippians 4:15-19 Paul informs the Philippians that what they have given to him, is like a sweet smelling offering before God, that the fruit will be credited to their account and God Himself will provide for all their needs.

Guard What Has Been Entrusted

20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—

21 by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

Paul closes with this admonition to Timothy to "guard" (keep, preserve, watch over) what has been given to you: the truth of the Gospel and the ministry given to him

Avoid getting into things that are falsely called "knowledge".

Paul would later write 2 Timothy from Rome where he would write directly and specifically to Timothy to instruct him how to live as a man of God. We will start 2 Timothy next week.

KEY TAKEAWAY

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

This is an important key to living as believers.

MINISTRY TIME