

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 June 2019.....1Timothy 1..... Entrusted
- 2) 09 June.....1Timothy 2..... On Mission
- 3) 16 June.....1Timothy 3..... Setting the Example
- 4) 23 June.....1Timothy 4..... Staying the Course
- 5) 30 June.....1Timothy 5..... Being Responsible
- 6) 07 July.....1Timothy 6..... Lasting Investments**
- 7) 14 July.....2Timothy 1..... Confidence
- 8) 21 July.....2Timothy 2..... Focused
- 9) 28 July.....2Timothy 3..... Diligent
- 10) 04 August.....2Timothy 4..... Enduring
- 11) 11 August.....Titus 1..... Living with Opposition
- 12) 18 August.....Titus 2..... Living with Integrity
- 13) 25 August.....Titus 3..... Living to Do

INTRODUCTION

- Paul provides Timothy with final thoughts on master/slave relationships, godliness, contentment, greed, fighting the good fight, guarding the truth, and avoiding worldly entrapments

Passage	Comments
1Timothy 6:1-5	<p><b>Maintain Testimony Before the World</b></p> <p>v1. To avoid having your faith being bad-mouthed at work, avoid trash talking your boss &amp; work place</p> <p>v2. For those working for believers, treat them with utmost respect. <i>“Teach and preach these principles”</i> – Paul stresses these things as a high priority for us</p> <p>vv3-5. Those who dispute such basic teachings have issues about everything [Some may say ‘Well you don’t understand, my boss is an idiot’ – BUT God’s word says to treat them with respect and honor anyway]</p>
6:6-10	<p><b>Be Content</b></p> <p>v6. Contentment and godliness go together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ You can be relatively content in life without be godly</li> <li>♦ But you cannot be godly without being content</li> <li>♦ What would make you content? <input type="checkbox"/> More money? <input type="checkbox"/> Bigger House? <input type="checkbox"/> Better Job? <input type="checkbox"/> Better Health?</li> </ul> <p>vv7-8. Paul states that having just the bare essentials (food and covering) should give us godly contentment</p> <p>vv9-10. Having more than the bare essentials is OK, but we need to be aware of the inherent dangers of greed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ We must watch out for covetousness and materialism for God puts greed on par with idolatry, immorality, &amp; blasphemy: (Ex 18:21; Ps 119:36; Pr 21:26; Ecc 5:10-12; Jer 8:10; Mr 7:20-23; Lk 12:15; Rom 1:29; Col 3:5; Eph 5:3-5; 1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tim 6:10; Heb 13:5)</li> </ul>
Contentment is different for every-one	<p>Contentment for many Americans is having a lot of money, a loving and faithful spouse, obedient children, a satisfying job, a big house, good health, good looks, good friends, and a secure future</p> <p>Others believe contentment should be a right &amp; privilege:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- e.g., Free cosmetic surgery to improve one’s appeal</li> <li>- Free day care; worry-free retirement; free healthcare</li> </ul> <p><b>Please note that Paul was addressing contentment to an audience who did not have access to hot showers, indoor plumbing, or even clean water</b></p> <p>God’s definition of contentment: Make do w/ what God has given you, BUT seeking self-improvement is OK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you are a slave &amp; can gain your freedom – Do so</li> <li>- If you need braces, glasses, hearing aids – Go for it</li> </ul> <p>How can we be content if we have a contentious or unfaithful spouse, no job or an unrewarding job, poor health, little to no retirement, and/or wayward children?</p> <p><b>Consider the Following.</b> True contentment is wrapped up in Christ and in our free gift of eternal salvation. Mt 6:25-33; Heb 13:5; Lk 12:15; Prov 16:8; 28:6; Ecc 3:13</p>

Passage	Comments
6:11-16	<p><b>Fight the Good Fight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v11. Paul stresses 2 things – Flee &amp; Pursue, but he doesn’t tell us HOW. So how do we FLEE from the Love of Money and PURSUE righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ David said, <i>“Keep your tongue from evil, depart from evil, do good, seek peace, pursue it”</i> ..... Ps 34:13-14</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v14. And how do we avoid ever tarnishing our testimony (“stain and reproach”) until Christ comes?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Our faith is not a passive faith, but a very active faith ...and it should be a very disciplined faith ... 1Cor 9:27</li> <li>♦ What do we need to do and not do, think &amp; not think, say &amp; not say, &amp; where do we need to go &amp; not go?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6:17-19	<p><b>Use Wealth Wisely</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul does not command the wealthy (us Americans) to give away everything &amp; become poor – but to use our wealth for Kingdom growth. How do we do this?</li> <li>• How can we be rich in good works and ready to share?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pay a widow’s or a single mom’s rent or utility bill?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase your giving a few percentage points?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How can we leave an inheritance to our children’s children (Prov 13:22), give above our Tithe, pay 30% or more in taxes, &amp; still afford to give to other causes?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Disciplined living below our means? <input type="checkbox"/> Play Lottery?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pray night &amp; day for financial relief ..... 1Tim 5:5</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Find some others to support you ..... Luke 8:2-3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Words of Wisdom on Wealth & Contentment from Solomon	<p>Prov 3:9 Honor the Lord from the first fruits of your wealth</p> <p>Prov 23:17-18 Live in fear of the Lord always and your future will be secure</p> <p>Ecc 2:25 You cannot enjoy life without God</p> <p>Ecc 5:10 Those who love money are never satisfied</p> <p>Ecc 7:18 The ones who fear God can have their cake and eat it too (RLT – Rod’s Loose Translation)</p>
6:20-21	<p><b>Guard the Truth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is going to steal or tarnish the truth we have?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Fools can only steal or tarnish the truth if we let them by wallowing in the mud with them ..... Prov 9:7; 29:9</li> <li>♦ Paul says to guard the truth by avoiding untruths of empty chatter, worldly arguments, &amp; false knowledge</li> <li>♦ They must’ve had Facebook back then</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

So much more can be said on contentment, greed, godliness, and fighting the good fight. The core issue is where is our heart? Are we focused on the things of God or are we self-focused?

**NEXT WEEK: 2 Timothy 1.** Paul writes this during his 2<sup>nd</sup> and final imprisonment – this time under Nero. Paul’s days are numbered, so he charges Timothy to guard the Gospel and, if necessary, suffer for it.

