

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 March 2013..... 1Timothy 1:1-20..... Follow Sound Doctrine
- 2) 10 March..... 1Timothy 2:1-15..... Please God in Worship
- 3) 17 March..... 1Timothy 3:1-4:16..... Honor God in Your Service
- 4) 24 March..... 1Timothy 5:1-6:2..... Care for Others
- 5) 31 March..... Matthew 28:1-20..... Believe in the Risen Lord
- 6) 07 April..... 1Timothy 6:3-21..... Pursue Spiritual Gifts
- 7) 14 April..... 2Timothy 1:1-18..... Be Loyal
- 8) 21 April..... 2Timothy 2:1-26..... Be Strong in God's Work
- 9) 28 April..... 2Timothy 3:1-17..... Be Guided by God's Word
- 10) 05 May..... 2Timothy 4:1-22..... Be Persistent to the End
- 11) 12 May..... Titus 1:1-16..... Look for Qualified Spiritual Leaders
- 12) 19 May..... Titus 2:1-15..... Look for Spiritual Excellence
- 13) 26 May..... Titus 3:1-15..... Look for Good Works

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>Maintain Testimony Before the World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. To avoid having your faith being bad-mouthed at work, avoid trash talking your boss & work place • 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 • 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]
6:6-10	<p>Be Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v6. Contentment and Godliness go together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ You can be relatively content in life without be godly ♦ But you cannot be godly without being content with where God has put you • vv7-8. Paul states that having just the bare essentials (food and covering) should give us godly contentment • vv9-10. Having more than the bare essentials is OK, but we need to be aware of the inherent dangers of greed – The love of money • We must watch out for covetousness and materialism for God puts greed on par with idolatry, immorality, & 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)
Contentment is different for every-one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contentment for many Americans is having a lot of money, a loving and faithful spouse, obedient children, a fun job, a big house, good health, good looks, good friends, and a secure future • Others believe contentment should be a right: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cosmetic surgery to improve one's looks - Sex change if you don't like your current gender - Easy divorce to fix a bad marriage - And, if you don't like kids, abort them or drop them off at the hospital • Please note that Paul was addressing contentment to an audience who did not have access to hot showers, indoor plumbing, or even clean water • God's definition of contentment: Make do w/ what God has given you, BUT seeking self-improvement is OK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you are a slave & you can gain your freedom – Cool - If you need braces, glasses, hearing aids – Go for it - If you want to get married – You are free to do so

Passage	Comments
6:11-16	<p>Fight the Good Fight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul stresses 2 things – Avoid sin (i.e., Greed) and be self-disciplined in godly things <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How do we pursue and exhibit righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness? ♦ v14. How do we avoid "stain and reproach?"
6:17-19	<p>Use Wealth Wisely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul does not command the wealthy (us Americans) to give away everything & become poor – but to use our wealth for the good of the Gospel. How do we do this? • How can we be rich in good works and ready to share?
Words of Wisdom on Wealth & Contentment from Solomon	<p>Prov 3:9 Honor the Lord from the first fruits of your wealth Prov 23:17-18 Live in fear of the Lord always and your future will be secure Ecc 2:25 You cannot enjoy life without God Ecc 5:10 Those who love money are never satisfied 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>Guard the Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul relied on Timothy to get the job done – to convert sinners and to disciple believers with God's truths • So how should Timothy guard this truth? Who is going to steal it from him & how are they going to steal it? • Paul says to guard the truth by avoiding untruths of empty chatter, worldly arguments, & false knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What would these look like to us?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- So much more can be said on 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 2nd 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.

