



3/18/26

*Well... I have been corrected, and I need to pass my blunder on to you. I told you something that wasn't true. I told you that I have no Irish blood running through my veins. I was wrong. My sister sent me her breakdown of DNA and, because we have the same biological parents, I can only assume that we have very similar DNA. Indeed, there IS a small amount of Irish ancestry in my DNA. Therefore, I apologize for misrepresenting myself AND I wore green on St. Patrick's Day. 🙄 🍀*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*1 Timothy 6:6-19*

*This passage speaks to aligning myself with God's word. Everything I do has to start with that foundation. When I don't align myself with God's word, I go down a path of regret and self-sabotage... and even more devastating, I grieve my Lord who saved my life. O Lord, teach me to know Your word and live Your word.*

*Vs. 6-8 ~ This passage starts with the word "but" or "however." That means it's in contrast to something. So... Godliness (living according to what pleases God) coupled with contentment (peace in the midst of any circumstance) is great gain... in contrast with what? Looking back to the verses before this, I see the answer... It is in contrast with living by a different doctrine than what the Bible clearly teaches... even when someone is claiming to live by the word of God, but twists the word for personal gain. That person is full of arrogance, claiming godliness but celebrating things that completely go against the true meaning and purpose of God. False godliness seeks personal gain. True godliness is grounded in lifting up the name of Jesus.*

*Why is seeking personal gain unhealthy? "We brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of the world. We need food and clothing, and with that we will be content." We don't need to keep accumulating more and more in order to be content. We need Jesus.*

*Vs. 9-10 ~ When the desire for money takes the place of a desire for the Lord, the temptation is too much to resist... and we fall. Money is not bad in and of itself. I know this because in vs.*

17, Paul is going to address how the rich are to handle their wealth. He's not going to say to get rid of it.

*But when the temptation of what money can provide collides with the desire to find contentment in that money rather than in God, only ruin and destruction result. That desire for money becomes a trap that takes people into MANY senseless and harmful desires, and they PLUNGE, submerge, themselves into ruin and destruction. These are the facts. There is no loophole. The LOVE of money, not money itself, is a root of ALL kinds of evil.*

*It is the craving for money, not even the money itself, that seduces some into pursuing it over the Lord. They wander... they drift... from the faith. They don't make a definitive decision to abandon the Lord. They are slowly seduced into believing that money is what gives them satisfaction and value, and they end up piercing themselves with MANY sorrows. Why does God want to protect us from the inordinate pursuit of money? To protect us. Our value and satisfaction come from the Lord alone.*

*Vs. 11-12 ~ So what should I do instead of worrying about money I don't have or trying to keep growing money I do have? Flee the greed. Flee, not money, but the LOVE of money. Psalm 62:10 says, "Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them." Why? Because vs. 9 says it's all just a fleeting breath of no real value. James 1:10-11 says, "Let the rich [man boast] in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits." It's not wrong to have money. It's wrong to love it so much that it sits on the throne of my heart. That throne only belongs to Jesus.*

*So... I can never take something away without replacing it with something else. What do I pursue instead of money?*

- *Righteousness... loving what God loves and hating what He hates*
- *Godliness... true devotion to the Lord*
- *Faith... full confidence in Him*
- *Love... sacrificial, undying, unconditional love... like the love He has for me*
- *Steadfastness... endurance, never giving up, never saying "I've had enough. I'm done."*
- *Gentleness... gentle strength through the Lord*

*I'm called to pursue these things because this is who Jesus is. I'm called to "fight the good fight of the faith" because it IS a fight. The enemy of my soul seeks my destruction. And if he can't destroy me, he will do everything he can to make me ineffective for the Lord by whatever means necessary.*

*How do I fight this good fight of the faith? Take hold... cling to... the eternal life I already have in Christ! I don't have to earn Jesus the way I would have to pursue wealth. I HAVE*

*Jesus. With my eternal life in Him I have access to His armor, His precious and great promises, all that I need for life and godliness. The life I have in Him is the only thing I NEED to take hold of. I was called to this life, and I have confessed Jesus as my Lord... so cling to what I already have!*

*Vs. 13-16 ~ The charge of Paul in these verses is "to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." This means consistent obedience to God's word until Jesus takes me home. Watch and pray so that I won't fall into temptation and drift from Him. There is always an unseen undercurrent trying to take me from the Lord. Don't let that happen. Consistently obey Him. Why?*

- *God gives me "zoe", eternal physical and spiritual life. Money can't do that. Money can't even save a life when it is racked by the brokenness of this disease filled world.*
- *Jesus Christ made the confession before Pontius Pilate, the one who gave the final order of His death, though even Pilate knew Jesus was innocent. Jesus did that for me!!! Money doesn't sacrifice itself for me. It forces me to sacrifice myself for it.*
- *Jesus, the blessed, sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords is immortal, and He makes ME immortal. Money dies with me at my physical grave. I can't take it with me. I don't need to! I have JESUS!!!*
- *God is the light. He dwells in unapproachable light. And yet, through Jesus, I will one day be in His presence forever. Money can't do that for me. The love of money takes me to darkness, not light.*

*This is why I say, "To GOD be honor and eternal rule! Let HIM be the ruler of my heart!" Let me never say, "I give all honor to the love of money." The dominion it has is not good and it is not eternal. Let it and all sin have no dominion over me. Jesus has set me free from treasuring the things of this world. Don't go back there!*

*Vs. 17-19 ~ So what are the rich to do? I don't consider myself to be rich, but apparently in relation to the whole world, most Americans are considered rich. So for the rich...*

- *Lay down pride or haughtiness, thinking that money makes them superior to anyone*
- *Don't set our hope on the uncertainty of money. How many stock market dips do we see in a lifetime? How many people take their own lives or destroy themselves because of false hope in money?*
- *Instead, put all our hope in God. He is the one who RICHLY provides us with everything we need... not the passing treasures of this world, but the eternal treasures of peace, hope, and joy that are not dependent on our circumstances.*
- *Do good... according to what God calls good.*
- *Be rich in GOOD WORKS... the works done in faith, works that please God.*

- *Be generous and ready to share with others. When I'm generous, my bank account may go down, but my treasures in heaven grow.*

*That is how we truly "take hold of that which is truly life." The life God has is rooted in truth. There is no trap, no plunge into ruin and destruction with the Lord. My first and only pursuit needs to be to stay close to the Lord. As I do that, He will give me the strength to fight the good fight. He will remind me that He is my hope, and nothing else... because with Him, I need no other hope. Praise His name!*