

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Riches: Real and Perceived
1 Timothy 6

Last time...instruction regarding elders

- worthy of double honor, especially if they labor in the Word and in doctrine
- the Church is to be slow and deliberate when it comes to accusations against
- are never to play favorites
- a calling not for novices
- let God be the judge

This time...employees and employers, riches and contentment

Bearing in mind the two things that take down pastors/teachers/elders

1. Women
2. Money

We are in 1 Tim 6

v1-2 At the time of this writing, there were about 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire

- 10-20% of the total population, Empire-wide
- 3:1, slaves to masters, in Rome itself

Servants = “slaves”

The yoke was of “iron” in many cases

The Gospel of Jesus Christ found fertile ground among the slaves in the Roman Empire –

- after temporary suffering in the world, resurrection from the dead unto eternal glory in the presence of the Creator
- peace, joy, love, acceptance from the OTL God “in Christ”
- A Master Who served others (John 13:3-17), a humble King who said
Matt 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Accordingly, the slaves who were followers of Jesus Christ were the Lord’s witnesses and ambassadors right where they lived – before a worldly master

Eph 6:5-8 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.

Besides, even masters have a Master!

Eph 6:9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with Him.

Scripture is for all time so, in the modern day parallel, employees “are as” the servants and employers “are as” the masters

Employees who have faith in Jesus Christ are called by God to

- honor/respect their employers, whether they be believers or unbelievers
- not despise, take advantage of, “not giving their all” to believing employers just because they are “Family”
- in all cases, to be the best employee their employer has, serving them diligently
 - as a witness of Jesus Christ to the unbeliever
 - as a faithful and beloved brother to the believer

so that the name of God/Jesus Christ and God’s doctrine

- love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength
- love your neighbor as yourself
- love those who hate you
- bless those who curse you
- pray for those who despitefully use and persecute you
- turn the other cheek
- he that is greatest among you shall be your servant
- the servant is not greater than his Lord, and I have been an example that you should do as I have done

is not blasphemed/vilified in the world, but stands apart from the world as a bright light

A believing employee’s work ethic is a witness to both a believing and an unbelieving employer

Be the best employee they have!!!

Col 3:23-24 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

v3-5 If any man in the Church

- teaches otherwise...contrary to Christ-likeness...
- does not consent...agree with, submit to
 - wholesome words...healthy and pure words
 - the words of Jesus Christ
 - the teachings of God’s Word about holiness

he is

- proud...self-exalted not humble, high-minded, thinking he is the smartest person in the room when in fact he
- knowing nothing...knows not
 - the Lord who humbled Himself unto death and gave Himself for us
 - Scripture ala Prov 1:7 ...the fear of the Lord (Word of God) is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction
- doting/harping about questions/disputes and strifes/contentions of words... a malicious pot-stirrer generating
 - envy...ill-will
 - strife...quarrels
 - railings...blasphemies
 - evil surmising...name-calling and raising unfounded suspicions
 - perverse disputings of men
 - of corrupt minds...rotten, confused ways of thinking, not in their right minds at the feet of Jesus
 - destitute/bankrupt of the truth
 - supposing/believing that gain (material wealth) is godliness
 - making merchandise of the people
 - preaching a Prosperity Gospel (nothing new under the sun!)

False teachers attack the peace and unity...whose foundation is Truth...in the Church

James 3:16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

2 Peter 2:1-3 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you:

Why Ch 1:3b-7

Don't get involved in the senseless and dishonest babble that knows no end
From such perverse men withdraw yourself; they are false teachers

Because...

v6 godliness...Christ-likeness, all that is good (Matt 19:17), all that is of God
with contentment...Jesus is enough for me, Jesus satisfies me
The world has nothing so precious as Jesus
Since I have Jesus and Jesus has me, I have everything I need and want
is great gain...great wealth

Great wealth is not worldly, it is other-worldly/heavenly
Riches are not what you have in this world, the fashion of which is passing away,
but Who you have now and in the next world

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:20-22 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

All the money and gold and precious things of the world are like stinky garbage
compared to what Jesus has for us...all the spiritual blessings in heaven
Don't be deceived by what you see with your eyes in this world, focus on the things of
the next world...because...

v7-8 We came into this world naked and with nothing and it is guaranteed that we will leave
this world with nothing

Job 1:21 Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return
thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed
be the name of the LORD.

Dead men's bones are in cemeteries, bank vaults and storage units are not.
The Egyptians buried their kings with great worldly wealth for their next life...but all that
stuff was either stolen by grave robbers over the centuries or on display in
museums around the world

Eccl 5:10-15

If you were to die today, or if we are Raptured today, how much cash and gold and jewelry and valued possessions will you be taking with you?

The things of this world stay in this world and go the way of this world –
burnt up in fervent heat
So why “kill myself” pursuing worldly wealth and things?

What is the purpose for investing so much time and energy in the accumulation, and maintenance, of worldly stuff during my finite number of days between my coming with nothing and my leaving with nothing?

Would not that time and energy be better invested in relationships, the relationship with the Lord our God being pre-eminent?

Does wealth and possessions simplify or complicate our lives?
Which is a more satisfying life – a simple one or a complicated one?

Yes, we have to work (v1-2) and yes, a job is a blessing from God
But anything more than food, clothes, and shelter is a potential distraction

Matt 6:32-33 Father knows our needs, seek first the kingdom of God
The Living God is a benevolent Father, pleased with us
Mammon is a cruel taskmaster, never satisfied

Prov 30:7-9 Two *things* have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die:
Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and
say, Who *is* the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of
my God *in vain*.

Luke 12:15-21

v9 But they that are driven to be rich in this world with this world's stuff
fall into

- a temptation...to turn from the Lord God, our Provider
- a snare...trap to cheat others, take advantage of others, step on the backs of others as they climb the corporate ladder, make merchandise of brethren
- many foolish and hurtful lusts...very unwise choices to indulge their insatiable flesh rather than to deny their flesh and follow Jesus

which drown...in addition to the oft-times panicked physical effort to keep the airway above the water, drowning is followed by the struggle to hold one's breath, and then a period of pain, often described as a 'burning sensation' as water enters the lung.

in destruction and perdition...utter physical and spiritual ruin because riches became the god to be worshipped and served
(Mammon is never pleased, always demanding to be appeased)

Prov 23:4-5 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.
 (rather, labor to enter into God's rest)
 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not (lasting)? for *riches*
 certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward
 heaven. (Money talks: "Good-bye!!!")

Matt 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Greed for money is at the heart of every social ill in the world
When we peel away the layers of the onions of

- we always find the same thing: the love of money (and the power it has in a fallen world)

- covet the money, wealth, power...contrary to the 10th Commandment
- have erred from the faith...in our King and His kingdom, which is not of this world and has a radically different “currency”
- pierced themselves thru...physical and spiritual body piercings
- with many sorrows...grief and “vanity”

Matt 6:22-24 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great *is* that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Beware!

v11-12 What a great “title” Timothy is given by the Spirit-inspired father in the faith: “man of God”

That is what I want to be known as by the Holy Spirit!

Godly counsel in this matter of riches:

- Flee these things (v9-10), flee like Joseph fled!
- Follow after/pursue/run toward
 - righteousness...all that which is pleasing and acceptable to the holy God – Jesus Christ Who is made unto us as righteousness
 - Prov 21:21 He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour (that no amount of money cannot buy)
 - Prov 15:9 The way of the wicked *is* an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.
 - godliness...Christ-likeness, John 3:30 and John 3:36
 - fruit of the Spirit
 - faith
 - love
 - patience
 - meekness
- Fight the good fight of faith...contend for that which alone pleases God, faith that is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen; fight because the world hates Jesus and those who have faith in Jesus (fight as Paul was also fighting and would finish fighting, 2 Tim 4:6-8)
- Lay hold/seize and don't let go of eternal life...the gift of God purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God Who came to take away the sins of the world

- Finish well your course

Luke 16:9-11 *And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?*

God's view of mammon/money:

- unrighteousness (when loved and served)
- least
- false/counterfeit

v13-16 Another VERY serious charge/exhortation like Ch 5:21 – in the sight of

- God, Who makes alive that which is dead and makes all things new
- Christ Jesus, our example of a good profession before God

John 18:36-37 *My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

John 19:11a *Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above*

To keep/guard/obey the Word of God before God and man

- without spot...unblemished
- unrebukable...blameless

until the Lord Jesus Christ returns as He promised

He is coming imminently!

To the clouds for His Bride!

1 Chron 12:32

Days of Noah and Days of Lot...the last of the last days!

In the history of the Church, the love of money has destroyed...and is still destroying... many ministers of God and many ministries

Be not such a man, Timothy, "o man of God", until the day you stand face-to-face with Jesus Christ!!

Because

When Jesus returns to earth, He will declare/reveal/show the entire world Who

- is God's blessed
- the only Potentate/Authority on earth
- King of kings and Lord of lords
- Alone
 - has immortality...possesses and gives life eternal...true riches
 - dwells in the Light of God (1 John 1:5) that is
 - inaccessible to all flesh
 - unseen...John 1:18
 - unsee-able...John 4:24a
 - honor and power everlasting...which not even all the riches on earth can buy

Therefore...

v17-19 Charge/exhort the wealthy believers...who have far more than they need

1. they are not any better than the poorest believer in the eyes of God, so do not think more highly of yourself than you should
2. do not trust in fleeting, temporary, deceptive worldly wealth
Ps 62:10b if riches increase, set not your heart *upon them*.
(the world is as bankrupt as FTX, it just doesn't know it yet)
3. trust/lean on the Living God with all your weight (He holds your breath in His hand, you are utterly dependent upon Him) Who gives (vs us striving hopelessly for) richly/abundantly all things
John 10:10b I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
John 16:15a All things that the Father hath are mine
Rom 8:17
4. do good...humble yourself and do as Jesus did and wants to do in/thru you
5. be rich in good works...the works of God accomplished by the Holy Spirit when you die to Self and lay your life down for Jesus
6. ready to distribute...to freely and joyfully share with others, especially those in need, the things that God has entrusted to your stewardship
7. willing to communicate...to give as you have received
(Matt 10:8, Acts 20:35)
8. storing up heavenly treasures...because Jesus is coming!!!
Every worldly thing stays behind, so invest "forward"!
Store it up like the ants do!

Prov 6:6-11

Ants

- Most numerous creatures...20 quadrillion (15 zeros)
- Greatest collective weight more than all wild birds and wild mammals, 1/5 the total weight of all 8 billion humans

Remember the Parable of the Rich Young Ruler!

v20-21 Closing remarks in this inspired letter from an Apostle to a pastor

Keep/guard/preserve that which is committed to your trust – the riches of God

Avoid profane/wicked/foolish babblings of man (as started the letter in Ch 1:3-5)

Avoid false science, like The Theory of Evolution

Science: the study of unchanging facts

False science: the pushing upon society theories, opinions, and agendas contrary to the revelation of the Living God, claiming truth by hiding behind the word “science”

Some have swerved from the unchanging facts of God’s revelation

e.g. Theistic Evolution – compromising the Creation account in the Bible with the Theory of Evolution (lots of time and chance)

Rev 3:14-16 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Last word: Grace...like the first word (Ch 1:2)

Exhortation

Riches

- Real and perceived
- Spiritual vs worldly

Contentment: Jesus is the prize, lots of money and stuff is not

Deut 8:7-18

v11-12

Flee
Follow
Fight
Finish