

Trustworthy Sayings

Part 9 – Godliness and Gain

1 Timothy 6.1-10

Servants and Masters = Employee and Employer (though not exactly)

- Paul’s basic message: let the Gospel define how you live in that unique relationship
- The not-so-subtle message is not to let money define that relationship (even though money is what makes that relationship unique)

Contrast that with the false teachers who should have defined their relationships to the church by the Gospel but instead defined those relationships by money

- The result was terrible (v.4-5)
- The biggest problem: they wanted godliness to get them gain

Irony: those who could have been defined by money were not and those who should not have been were

Modern Day Examples

- Creflo Dollar: “Jesus bled and died for us so that we can lay claim to the promise of financial prosperity #ProsperityinChrist #WealthyLiving #AbundantLife” (7 Oct 2015 – since deleted)
- Jesse Duplantis: “The very first thing on Jesus’ agenda was to get rid of poverty” (*Voice of the Covenant* magazine Nov 1997 p. 5)

When you think godliness is a means of gain... (Golf ball video)

- You pervert the Gospel
 - It becomes about your faith, your ability, your desires, your well-being
 - God is relegated to your errand boy instead of the most glorious treasure ever
 - Instead of forsaking idolatry, you commit it – money instead of Christ
- You reverse the Gospel
 - The question of what you can do instead of the question of what Jesus has done already
 - It is at its heart religious – getting God on your side
 - Doing so in Jesus’ name often inoculates us to the true Gospel

4 Truths (and good reminders for us)

Truth: Godliness *is* gain (v.6)

- Does that mean you won't prosper financially in this life? Not necessarily, but whether you do or don't pales in comparison to what you *actually* gain – Jesus and a relationship with Him
- Matthew 13.44 – Philippians 3.7-11

Truth: No U-Hauls behind hearses (v.7)

- To be clear: everything you're working so hard for will be left for someone else
- That doesn't mean it's not worth working for – but it can grow to where it's out of perspective
- Send it ahead through generosity – we are blessed to be a blessing

Truth: Greed -> Pain (v.8-9)

- Paul fought to be content with less because he knew the dangers of more
- We're all spiritual Menendez brothers – wanting what our Father has without caring to have Him too
- Working too hard so that Sunday isn't a priority – kids' involvements that deprioritize worship
- Snare – this is our life under the taskmaster of money (Strings on Blinds)
Jesus is clear: you can't serve both (Matt. 6.24)

Truth: Loving money leads to evil

- What you love will come out in your life
- Tragedy is when people wander away from eternal treasure because they think earthly treasure is better (Rich Young Ruler)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who is the person you have worked for that had the most influence on your life? Why?
2. How is the Gospel best pictured in your job / vocation?
3. How have you seen money become a point of division between believers? In the church? What was the end result?
4. Reread Philippians 3.3-11. What do you see that Paul says about gain? Why does he write like this? What is one way you can apply this?
5. Which of the 4 Truths listed above is most applicable to you / your family right now? How can you apply it? What must change?