

## WE'RE ALL SLAVES—BUT, WHO'S YOUR MASTER? (1 TIMOTHY 6)

1 Timothy 6:1-10. *Masters & Slaves, Funky Teachers, Money Lovers.* Even if you've been enslaved, accord your owner full respect; otherwise, God's reputation and our teaching will be viewed negatively, if not blasphemed. If your owner is a believer, do not use that as an excuse to be less respectful simply because they are brothers. In fact, serve them even better because they will benefit as believers; be dear to them. Teaching these things, urge this principle.

Now as for false teachers, remember they are diverging from the instruction of our Lord, Jesus the Christ, and not only that, they are conceited/puffed up (literally "blow smoke"); they understand nothing.

You'll also note false teachers have an unhealthy interest in controversies, quarrels about word which result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicion and useless debates [διαπραρατριβαί, wrangling, constant arguing, 3859] between people of corrupted minds. They think godliness is a way to gain financially.

Here's the real story—godliness with contentment has great gain. We've brought nothing into this world and we'll take nothing out. If we've got food and clothing, be content. People wanting to get rich easily fall into temptation; many foolishly harmful ideas have plunged people into ruin, into destruction. Remember a source of all kinds of evils is the love of money [avarice, covetousness]. In fact, some eager for stuff have been seduced away from the faith, and pierced [περιέπειραν, "per-ee-pi'-ro;" been put on a spit, 4044] themselves with much sorrow.

- Q Why are believing slaves to be particularly good slaves? How is this reconciled with 1 Tim 1:10?
- Q What are some indicators of false teaching—beyond obvious variance from the teachings of the Lord?
- Q Why are we not content with food and clothing?
- Q What sorrow have you experienced from being on the spit of eagerness for money? Why does this cause people to be seduced from the faith?

### 1 TIMOTHY 6:1-10

All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. <sup>2</sup>Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. These are the things you are to teach and urge on them.

<sup>3</sup>If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, <sup>4</sup>he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions <sup>5</sup>and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

<sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup>People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:11-21. *Closing Thoughts*. But you are different—flee from all this nonsense. Pursue other things: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

Fight the good fight of faith. Grab on to *eternal* life, the life to which you were called when you confessed your faith in the presence of many witnesses. You confessed in the presence of Father God, who gives life to everything, and in front of Christ Jesus who Himself confessed in front of Pontius Pilate.

I challenge you to keep pursuing without blemish until the Lord Jesus the Christ Himself appears. He will appear when Father God deems it to be the right time for He is the only King, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He alone is immortal; He alone lives in unapproachable light who no one has seen or can see. He gets the honor, and the praise for might, forever. So be it, truly, let it be.

Teach those who are rich in this world to tone down their arrogance, not to put their hope in wealth, a wealth which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in the Lord our God. God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Teach the rich to do good—to be rich in good deeds; to be generous and willing to share. In doing so, they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so they may grab life that is truly life.

Finally, Timothy, protect what has been entrusted to you. Avoid profanely empty babblings, and what has been falsely called “knowledge.” Yes, some have professed and in doing so, have wandered away from the faith. May grace be extended to all of you.

- Q What makes wealth so uncertain? Why then do we put our hope in wealth?
- Q Has Paul introduced another criterion for salvation in verse 19? That is, verse 18, says be rich in good deeds, be generous and share willingly.
- Q What was the “good confession” Jesus the Christ made in front of/to Pontius Pilate? [Matthew 27:11; Mark 15:2; Luke 23:3; John 18:33ff, 19:8-11]
- Q What is our confession we are to manifest regarding Jesus the Christ? Are we in fact δουλοισ? Or servants, or employees, or ...? How do you describe your relationship with the Lord God?

## 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

<sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

<sup>17</sup>Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup>In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

<sup>20</sup>Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, <sup>21</sup>which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.

Grace be with you [all].