

1 Timothy
The Gospel, Godliness, and The Church
Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain
1 Timothy 6:1–10, Part 2

1 Timothy 6
A General Overview

- 6:2b-10 Contentment
- 6:11-16 Faithfulness
- 6:17-21 Generosity

This sermon is not a call to live passively or to be devoid of ambition or an excuse to be lazy. This sermon is about trusting God with all facets of your life.

Sermon Points

1. Be content with your station in life – 6:1-2a
2. Pursue peace through sound doctrine; avoid unnecessary contentious debates – 6:2b-5
3. Ask God to give you spiritual eyes to view all of life with an eternal perspective as you pursue godly contentment – 6:6-8
4. The culture passionately opposes kingdom values – surrender to Jesus, not to the culture 6:9-10

Thomas Oden (writing about 1 Timothy 6:1-2a): In interpreting this passage, think of bondage as being analogous to the oppressiveness of “no exit” employee-employer relationships, especially where one is virtually powerless in the hands of another. The instruction, in this sense, may be viewed as broadly addressed to all those whose lives are trapped in conditions of unrelieved oppression and powerlessness. The gospel does not abruptly cancel these burdens, but it does offer grace to enable us to grasp them in a different light, and so to change these circumstances, however miserable they may be, by the quality of our response to them.

John Chrysostom (late 4th century Bishop of Constantinople, known as the golden-mouthed preacher because of his excellent preaching and communication skills): A teacher has need not only of authority, but of gentleness, and not only of gentleness, but of authority.

Scripture Associated with the Message

1 Corinthians 7:21 Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) 22 For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. 24 So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

Mark 8:34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Luke 9:57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

. . . 24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of

more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Luke 12:15 And he (Jesus) said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”