



REASONING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Weekly Bible Study

TEACH THESE TRUTHS, TIMOTHY, AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO OBEY THEM. SOME FALSE TEACHERS MAY DENY THESE THINGS, BUT THESE ARE THE SOUND, WHOLESOME TEACHINGS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THEY ARE THE FOUNDATION FOR A GODLY LIFE. ANYONE WHO TEACHES ANYTHING DIFFERENT IS BOTH CONCEITED AND IGNORANT... THEIR MINDS ARE CORRUPT, AND THEY DON'T TELL THE TRUTH. TO THEM RELIGION IS JUST A WAY TO GET RICH.

YET TRUE RELIGION WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT WEALTH. AFTER ALL, WE DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING WITH US WHEN WE CAME INTO THE WORLD, AND WE CERTAINLY CANNOT CARRY ANYTHING WITH US WHEN WE DIE. SO IF WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AND CLOTHING, LET US BE CONTENT. BUT PEOPLE WHO LONG TO BE RICH FALL INTO TEMPTATION AND ARE TRAPPED BY MANY FOOLISH AND HARMFUL DESIRES THAT PLUNGE THEM INTO RUIN AND DESTRUCTION. FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS AT THE ROOT OF ALL KINDS OF EVIL. AND SOME PEOPLE, CRAVING MONEY, HAVE WANDERED FROM THE FAITH AND PIERCED THEMSELVES WITH MANY SORROWS. (1 TIM 6:2-10 NLT)

Key Verse: 1 Tim 6:6

Some Pretend Godliness for the Sake of Personal Gain...

As in the days of Paul, so today there are those who pretend to be teachers of the Bible for the sake of personal enrichment, ". . . supposing that gain is godliness . . ." (1 Tim 6:5). This means that there are those who use outward piety for selfish purposes. The word for "godliness" is ***eusébeia***, meaning "the external manifestation of religious devotion." The opposite of this outer expression of faith is ***eulábeia***, "the inner reception of God's peace" (John 14:27).

Outward piety can be valid if one is sincerely seeking to please God. However, Paul warns against those who teach for the sake of personal profit, "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of

the simple" (Rom 16:18). Such preachers teach a different gospel (***heterodidaskalía***, "teach otherwise" in 1 Tim 6:3). In reality they are "proud." The Greek word is ***tetúphœtaí***, "one who throws up a smokescreen to deceive others about himself " (1 Tim 6:4).

They are men of corrupt minds, who are "destitute of the truth" (1 Tim 6:5), teaching a health and wealth gospel and thus becoming enemies of the cross of Christ (Phil 3:18). Church leaders are exhorted not to be desirous of "filthy lucre" by Peter (1 Peter 5:2) and Paul (1 Tim 3:8; Titus 1:7).

". . . From such withdraw thyself " (1 Tim 6:5). To support or join with such teachers is to also participate in their pretense.

There Are Others Who Practice True Godliness

The same word, ***eusébeia***, used in 1 Tim 6:5 to refer to false piety, is also employed in verse six to describe true godliness. Such commendable piety comes when one is satisfied with what he has: "But godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Tim 6:6). The word translated "contentment" in Greek is ***autárkeia***, "to deem sufficient whatever one has." The opposite of ***autárkeia*** is ***pleonexía***, "the desire to have more than what one possesses." The only other place ***autárkeia*** occurs is 2 Cor 9:8, where one who has "sufficiency" is described as being able to share with others. The best givers are not necessarily those who have plenty, but rather those who consider what they have to be enough for themselves and others also.

You Can Become **Truly** Rich

The desire of gain (***porísmós***) is innate in man. He can either fulfill this desire honestly or by evil means. 1 Tim 6:5 admonishes us not to use external piety as a means of personal profit. This teaching does not contradict what Paul teaches in 1 Tim 5:18, "the laborer is worthy of his reward." The word "reward" here is not ***porismós***, but ***misthós***, "pay for work done." Such money is honestly acquired.

The gain commended in 1 Tim 6:6 is described as "great." It is acquired as a consequence of our contentment with what God has given us and our desire to share it with others.