

1 Timothy

Week 6 - Chapter 6:3-21

Leader's Note: 1 Timothy 6 shows two different ways of looking at the gospel: as a means to earthly temporary gain or as a means to eternal gain. Paul digs deeply into what motivates humans and how the things that we treasure are not nearly as important as we make them out to be.

In this lesson we will look at what we think of as gain and how our mindset will affect how we treat the things and people that are a part of our lives.

Pray for your time together in God's Word!

? Imagine that you were given one million dollars. What would you do with it and why?

Leader's Note: This opening question is designed to get your group talking. Answers will vary depending on those present.

Possible Answers: pay off my student loans, and go on a vacation

Read the passage out loud as a group. Optional: Give the group 3 minutes to look at the passage on their own.

1 Timothy 6:3-21 (NIV)

³ If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴ they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵ and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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 ¹⁴ to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of

kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ 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.

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

Grace be with you all.

? Today, as in Paul's day, people pursue wealth or gain. Why do people pursue wealth?

Possible Answers: Security, status, ease, leisure.

? Look at the person who is described in verses 3-5. What is gained by these actions?

Possible Answers: make one feel superior, give an excuse to not better oneself, enjoy seeing others suffer.

? In verse 6 Paul states that, "godliness with contentment is great gain." Contrast the ungodly mindset of verses 3-5 with the godly outlook of verses 7-8. How do they differ and why?

Possible Answers: The godly mindset comes from a right understanding of the temporary nature of life on earth while the ungodly seeks to make this life permanent, the ungodly mindset tries to find significance outside of God, and the godly mindset finds significance in God.

? How might the mindset of verses 7-8 bring you contentment?

Possible Answers: It keeps us from seeking security and significance in things that cannot fulfill those needs, focuses our attention on God who is the only one who can satisfy.

? Not only does Paul instruct Timothy to flee, but also tells him what to pursue in verses 11b-16. How are we empowered to 'flee' finding our security in material possessions by pursuing God?

Possible Answers: It gives direction, focuses our attention away from those things that we are fleeing, directs us to God who gives us the power to flee harmful desires.

? Finally, In verse 20 Paul instructs Timothy to "guard what has been entrusted to your [his] care" by "Turn(ing) away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge" How can these actions guard one's faith?

Possible Answers: They require self-restraint, which drives one to God, they keep one vigilant about those things that can distract from faith in God.

? In today's passage we have been presented with two contrasting mindsets and courses of action.

How can the encouragement that Paul wrote to Timothy encourage and empower you to live out your faith?

Possible Answers: Answers to this application question will vary depending from person to person but may include focusing on the power of God, reminding of the futility of life without God or, opening eyes to how easy it is to put trust in things other than God.

? What is our community application of this passage?

Leader's Note: You may choose to create your own application question as a group based on your discussion, or highlight a question from this study.