

Thursday, February 23, 2023 ▪ Read 1 Timothy 6:3–10

Questions from the Scripture text: What might some teach, instead of the various “honoring”s in 4:12–6:2 (v3a)? But what sorts of words has the apostle given (v3b)? Whose are they (v3c)? With what does their doctrine accord (v3d)? So, what is the character of someone who teaches otherwise (v4)? What does he know? With what is he obsessed? What situations does he produce (v4–5)? What sorts of people does this produce (v5)? How should Timothy respond to such men? What sort of gain does true, biblical teaching produce (v6)? Why is this gain great, while material gain is small (v7)? What do we actually need (v8)? What shouldn't we desire (v9)? Into what does such desire cause us to fall? With what result? Of what is such desire/love a root (v10)? From what have some strayed for this love? With what have they pierced themselves through?

What is so dangerous about manmade ideas about honoring ministers, church members, widows, elders, and masters? 1Timothy 6:3–10 looks forward to the second reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **earthly theology produces earthly character, which has no spiritual value and indeed causes positive spiritual harm.**

The end of v3 mirrored 4:11. Since then, the apostle had written to Timothy about maintaining his own honor (4:12–16), treating all church members with honor (5:1–2), the honor of full-time praying widows on the payroll (5:3–16), the double-honor of faithful elders (5:17–24), and the counting-worthy of honor of earthly masters (v1–2).

Why must this teaching be the standard? Because the apostle's words, by the Holy Spirit, are the very words of the Lord Jesus (v3). They are words that not only define godliness but are wholesome (healthy, health-giving, sound) and accord with godliness. Since Jesus must produce the godliness, and He is the One Who has given us words that do so, we must go with His words on these matters.

This is the importance of the doctrine of plenary verbal inspiration (that every word of Scripture is the word of God every bit as much as if He had breathed it out in our hearing). Godliness depends upon Him Who has spoken them. The words are incomparably great precisely because they are His.

So, one who adds to or contends with Scripture on these matters is of bad character: he is proud (v4). And he is also of bankrupt quality: he knows nothing (v4). He produces not the mutual love, esteem, and edification but unfruitful arguments, envy, strife, despising, evil suspicions, and useless wranglings. As a result, the people that he affects lose the truth that could make them heavenly minded and instead end up talking about “godliness” but just trying to manipulate earthly circumstances to personal advantage (v5).

Your author has experienced this in the ministry: congregants who read writers who go on ad nauseum coming up with rules about economics, and the congregants themselves are ignorant of the knowledge of Christ and devoid of the life of Christ. They talk about godliness, but are just proud of the system they hold to, and think and speak fractiously of believers, always trying to be the influencer in every situation.

Perhaps you have met such as well. The apostle gives Timothy, and us, this command: “from such withdraw yourself.” Or, if we find this is a description of the man in the mirror, let us repent that others would not be required by Jesus to withdraw from us!

Jesus's words, by comparison, DO accord with godliness (v3; cf. 3:15–16, Titus 1:1). “Godliness with contentment” (v6) isn't describing two things, but one great thing, and one of its components. What good can greed do? Even if greed were satisfied, its fruit will evaporate with our death (v7, cf. 4:7–8). And, the mere existence of it in our hearts threatens to do us all sorts of harm (v9–10). From this harm, we may be protected by that contentment (v8), which comes by Christ's powerful use of His own words!

How can you tell that you are actually trusting in Jesus's power to produce good in you? What would your theological approach be? What would your conversations look like? What will your desires be like?

Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us for when we extrapolate from Your Word in a way that is more like human jousting than dependence upon Christ. Forgive us for how we can be so contentious instead of contented. Forgive us for having our hearts so caught up in earthly things that we open ourselves up to spiritual disaster. Forgive us! And grant that Your Spirit would help us in Jesus Christ, AMEN!

ARP110B “The Lord Has Spoken to My Lord” or TPH270 “At the Name of Jesus”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

1st Timothy chapter 6:3-10. These are God's words. If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, Even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. Into the doctrine, which accords with godliness. He is proud. Knowing nothing. But is obsessed with disputes. And arguments over words from which come envy strife.

Reviling evil suspicions. Useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds. And destitute of the truth. Who's supposed to godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. No godliness with contentment is great gain for We brought nothing into this world. And it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and clothing. With these, we shall be content. But those are desire to be rich. Fall into temptation and the snare. And then too many foolish and harmful losses. What's drown men and destruction and petition? For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

For which some have strayed from the faith. And they're greediness. And pierced themselves through. With many sorrows.

So, for the reading of God's, Inspired engineering to work.

So, at the end of Verse 2 and last week's portion. The Apostle had told Timothy. Teach and exhort these things, which is very similar to the end. Or rather the whole of verse 11, these things command. And teach. In between the sections. He talked about Timothy maintaining his own honor and versus 12 through 16 of chapter 4.

Of how he Timothy was to treat. All the church members, the different ones with the different sorts of honor. In chapter 5, verses 1 and 2. The owner that was due to. The full-time praying widows on the payroll. Chapter 5 verses 3 through 16, the double honor. That is due to faithful elders.

Chapter 5, verses 17 through 24. And they all honor of which we were we are to count earthly mastersworthy. And versus one and two. Of chapter 6. Now, this honoring of others is something that is Donna, especially for god's sake, which is what we heard and versus one. And two.

Reminding us that everything is from. And through and to the Lord, and to him. Belongs all the glory. We exist for the worship of God exists to know him. We exist to worship him. Not. Get what we want.

For our own. Pleasure or for our own desire. We live, we exist. In order to know and to worship God. And that's why we are able to and ought to On our others. So Sophia the first, and the great thing in your life, which is still 5 years in the main thing in your life, This to honor and obey.

Mommy, and daddy. Because, You exist to worship God? And obey, God. And he has made you a daughter. In your parents house. If you live thinking about what you want, What you want to do, what you want to get, how you want, other people to think of you. You are living for yourself and you are living for this world.

You are living in a way that this passage. The scripture says, Is going to pierce you through with many sorrows.

When we read the word of god, we are to recognize or when we read the scriptures. We are to recognize that the scriptures are the very words of the Lord Jesus. So the apostle says, in verse 3, if anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, Even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ or even those of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Which means? That this passage. And all of 1, Timothy and all of the Bible. Sophia. Are the very words of the Lord Jesus to us. Not just the word of Jesus in some kind of Un particular. Way of just thinking as a general idea. But that every single word of the Bible, A particular word of the Lord Jesus.

So he uses the plural here. He doesn't say It does not consent to the wholesome word. Singular of the Lord Jesus Christ. He says, does not consent to wholesome words. Even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the great reason that it is so important for you.

This is the great reason that is so important for you. To learn to read. And to pay attention. And to listen, Because Jesus uses words. Every word. Of the scripture. Is a word of Jesus. So when we read it, we must read it in a way. In which we pay attention, and let our minds, be taught and corrected by the Bible.

And we should have our hearts. Submitted to, And obeying the Bible. We read the word and we listen to it explained in a way that worships Jesus. That says these words are the very words of my god and my savior. And I must be careful how I hear them.

That I pay. Good attention. That I listen to them with an obedient and submissive heart. And one of the ways that we can tell that that's the way we're listening to the Bible, Is what we do with the Bible. No, not everyone agrees with one another about what Bible passage is mean This is because we are foolish and we are sinful.

And we are. Trying to think of another word than stupid, but we are stupid. And so, When we disagree with one another, It is because at least one of us and probably to some extent, both of us are wrong. And yet we want to know what it means. We want to know what it says.

We want to know how to think we want to know what to do. And if we come together and we are worshipping God, and the way that we listen to his words, we are going to be taught. We are going to be exhorted. We are going to agree. We are going to obey.

But there is another way of treating the words of the Bible and it is not Treating the Bible as the words of Jesus even though many people who say that, they believe that the bible are the words of Jesus treat the Bible that way. Listen, if anyone teaches, otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the doctrine, which means teaching, which accords with godliness He is proud.

Okay. So the first way that you could tell that someone is not treating the Bible as the words of God is, if they are not wanting to be holy Loving God. Knowing God, wanting to serve him. Wanting to obey him. The second way is he is proud, knowing nothing.

Obsessed with disputes and arguments over words. And so he might like to talk about the Bible, he might even say this is just how I do theology. By always disputing by always arguing. But someone who is always disputing into is always arguing is not using a responding to the Bible as the words of Jesus.

They're not worshipping. By the way they listen. Even when we disagree with one another, We do. So we ought to do. So in a way that is humble not proud. In a way that worships Jesus and wants to know, wants to love him is always being corrected. We're always soft hearted and we ourselves are lonely before Not always raising ourselves up.

And pushing other people down. How are these people? Who use the Bible? How will we look, if we use the Bible, Incorrectly. So out of these disputes and arguments verse 4, come envy And strife. And reviling which means you think very low of others. And they're always disgusted with them looking down on them.

Evil suspicions. Always assuming what other people are intending to do and knowing what they are up to. If we find ourselves thinking like that about others, Then we're trading. Can we may well be treating the words of God incorrectly because we are not being humbled and corrected and taught.

Useless Wranglings of corrupt minds, empty of the truth, destitute of the truth. Who suppose that godliness? Is gain. And you can James his reply by supplied. A means of But you see here, The difference between godliness or Bible reading or theology? As wanting to understand, Jesus, wanting to obey Jesus.

Loving him and wanting to know how to love him, better knowing him and wanting to know how to know him better or Wanting others to know how good we are wanting to get things. And he says, Those who use the Bible? In a way, that is not submitted to the Lord, Jesus seeking to know him and love him together.

Don't spend time with them. Yeah, they start doing their theologizing, their disputing and they're arguing and Just, Go find someone else to be around. That's

what verse 5 says, it says from such. Withdraw yourself. No godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing. Into the world. And it is certain we can carry out.

Then that's not just you can't carry out possessions. You don't get to carry out your other people's opinions of you either or your opinion of yourself. When you leave this world, when you enter the immediate presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. The presence of the holy angels, the presence of the souls of the just made perfect.

It will not matter how highly you thought of yourself or how lowly you thought of others. It will not matter how highly they thought of you. It will not matter what job you had, there will not matter how much was in your investment accounts. On the at the moment, you died.

It will not matter. How many silly records you set? If any? Well, you were in this world. Everything that you gained, whether Property or honor for men or wealth from from men or wealth of this world, it will be gone. You can't carry any of it out. The only thing you can carry from this world is Christ if you have him.

And does the conformity to Christ that he has worked in you. If there was any Godliness is literally the only thing we get to take from this world to the next. So, Being content with little, which is actually a form of godliness. You keeping of the 10th commandment? Contentment is gain.

Everything else that we thought was gain would be lost. And it will be lost. He always has in verse 8 having food and clothing with these. We shall be content. These are things that our father in heaven knows that we need. He knows even that the birds need food.

And you close the flowers. And he's our father in heaven. And he gives us as much as it's good and wise and right for us.

Those are desire to be rich. Those who desire more. Then the Lord has appointed for them. They fall into temptation and into a snare. Too many foolish losts which drown men and destruction and perdition. So, this Desire to elevate myself. That expresses itself when we're handling the Bible. In being an argumentative type person.

It was also the sort of thing this desire to elevate ourselves or gets for ourselves. It leaves us, open exposed to sin and temptation. Because now, we're not living in a way that loves Jesus and wants to obey the Lord and serve him. With our whole life. We're living in a way that wants to get for ourselves.

And so, Elevating ourselves, we become willing to do whatever we want to get what we want. Instead of doing what Jesus wants to give him what he wants. And we make our life about ourselves. Soon, we find ourselves. Not just compromising but outright sinning.

Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare into many foolish and harmful lusts, which drown men. In destruction and tradition. It's like the The Riptide. It looks pleasant to them. To go swimming to live for themselves. The pull of the sin. Was going to drag them under and drag them out and drown them.

That will happen to you if you live for yourself, if you want to be the one who is in charge. If you want others to think, well of you. If you want to accumulate possession for yourself, If you just wants to have pleasant feeling experiences,

But if you're content with the Lord Jesus, Then you have the greatest honor your joint to him, if you're content with the Lord Jesus. Can you have the greatest treasure? You have him. If your content with the Lord Jesus, Then you have the greatest pleasure. You delighted him. So you can either love Gain.

Or love him. And the love of gain is described in very concrete terms. Or rather not concrete. But silver terms for the love of money and it's literally a verb that takes the verb for love and the word for silver and mashes them together. The love of silver is a root.

Of all kinds of evil. For which some have strayed from the faith and they're greediness. And pierce themselves through with many sorrows. You'll be joined to Jesus. And love him. And receive all of the benefit of having him and belonging to him in this life and in the next and be blessed forever.

You can love silver and be joined to it. And drowned and destroyed and pierced through. Then it's not just silver mind you. It's everything earth. Like everything for which a man or woman lives for himself, even a man or a woman who Uses the Bible. And argues about the Bible.

Still living for themselves. Living for this life.

And so, let us recognize that the Bible is the words of Jesus. 3:30 to be read and heard and thought of and responded to In an attitude of worship. Let us love a life of worship enjoying him. Loving him being content with him. Serving him. Because when we come to leave this world, And the work that he has done in conforming us to himself.

Is the only thing that we will be able to carry out of it.

Our Father in heaven, we pray that you would Forgive us, our sin and save us from it.

For the desires of the flesh. Sewing to the flash instead of the spirit. From which we would read destruction. It does so easily and snare. And drag down and destroy and pierces, through And even we who have your word and know that it is yours, Are so easily susceptible and vulnerable to it.

Tomorrow, and sinfulness. And so, we pray that you would Give us by your spirit to be those who are humble to be taught and those were humble. To be commanded and exhorted. That the words of the Bible would be for us the very words of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Which are wholesome and good. And able to give us him and able to give us godliness. By your spirits use of them, we pray that your spirit would use. The words of the Bible. To give us faith in Christ that by faith. We might have Christ Himself. And grow in the grace and the knowledge of Christ.

Grand Theft that would be the case for each one of us. Lest we perish as those who lived. In order to gain for ourselves in this world. That which we could not take out of it. Have mercy of God on us. We pray. In Jesus name, amen.