



Women's R&R Bible Study 2024-2025

"YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND, AND I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORD WAS TO ME THE JOY AND REJOICING OF MY HEART."

JEREMIAH 15:16

LIVING IN HOPE LESSON 14

In our last chapter, Paul instructed Timothy to treat all people in a godly manner. He began with the older and younger men and women, continued with the widows, and concluded the chapter on how to treat the elders of the church. Here in chapter 6, Paul continues his exhortation to treat all people in a godly manner, dealing specifically with the master-slave relationship. Paul gives us some good insight regarding those who are rich, and then makes it even more personal as he challenges Timothy himself.

Are you ready to get to work? This chapter has many exhortations for you and I personally, too! Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with understanding of the Word, and the wisdom to apply it to your life. Have a great week.

Memory Verse of the Week: "Now godliness with contentment is great gain." 1 Timothy 6:6

1. Let's begin by reading 1 Timothy 6:1-21. What would you say is the main point of this chapter? Any repeated words or phrases?

Paul desires to show Timothy how the Gospel touches everyone and should affect how we treat all people. Paul begins by addressing those who were slaves.

2. Does Paul say that slaves should try to become free?

3. How is a slave supposed to treat his unbelieving master? (Most believe the master in verse 1 is an unbeliever because Paul draws a contrast in verse 2 with a believing master.) Why?
4. How should a slave treat their believing master?

In the Roman culture at the time, about one third of the population were slaves. People became slaves in different ways. Some were slaves because they were prisoners of war, some were condemned men, some were sold into slavery by their parents, some by debt, by kidnapping, and others were born into it. Slaves could be received as gifts or inherited. Sometimes even slaves had slaves. Slavery was a popular scheme of employment.

One commentator gives us some details concerning slavery, “In the Ancient East, much of the seasonal field work and part-time project work was done by hired day laborers (Matthew 20:1). Permanently employed domestic slaves served as managers (Luke 16:1), cooks, artisans, and teachers, becoming a part of the household, almost like family. In many respects they resembled the indentured servants of the American colonial era.”

5. We can take the principles that Paul is teaching here and apply them to the employer-employee relationship. Read Ephesians 6:5-8 and Colossians 3:22-4:1. Answer the following questions:
 - A. How should a Christian employer behave? How should they treat their employees?
 - B. How should a Christian employee behave?
6. How can both of these positions be used as an opportunity to glorify the Lord?

7. If you fit into one of these categories, would you say that your behavior glorifies the Lord? Are you as diligent as you possibly can be? Are you working as unto Him? Are you fair?
8. Explain why a Christian employee should be one of the best workers in the company.

Paul doesn't try to disrupt the social order of the day but shows them how the Gospel can transform their lives right where they're at. I pray that we will evaluate our own work ethic as we end this section.

9. Read 1 Timothy 6:3-8. What is the main point of this section? Are there any repeated words or phrases?
10. Paul returns to his topic of false teachers. How does he describe them in verses 3-4?
11. What is the result of their teaching in verses 4-5? Why is it impossible for their doctrine to produce godliness?
12. How is it possible to use "godliness" or a "religious appearance" as a means of gain? (Read Acts 8:18-23 for an example.)

Paul had the right to receive payment for his work concerning the faith, but he didn't (1 Corinthians 9:12). He didn't want anyone to accuse him of being in ministry to gain material wealth. He had witnessed many false teachers with ulterior motives, and it sickened him. Wealth was not high on Paul's priority list, that's for sure. That wasn't the type of "gain" he was looking for.

13. What does Paul say produces "great gain"?

14. Define contentment. What should bring us contentment, according to verses 7-8? What is Paul's point in verses 6-8?
15. Why is finding contentment in today's world seem so difficult? What kinds of things does the world teach us to pursue?
16. Read Proverbs 30:7-9, Hebrews 13:5, and Philippians 4:10-12. What do these verses tell us about contentment?
17. What other sins can discontentment lead to?
18. Would you consider yourself to be a content person? Are you content with what God has given you, or are you continually striving after more?
19. How can being discontent ruin one's life?

When we leave this world, we leave with exactly what we brought in with us -- nothing. We get so busy wanting and seeking more that we lose focus on what's important. We are often told in Scripture to keep our mind on what's eternal.

Read **Matthew 6:19-21**. This is a very familiar passage of Scripture, but if we actually applied it, it would be life changing. Examine your heart after reading it.

20. Do you struggle with contentment in other areas besides financial? Are you content being a mom, or in your job, or in your ministry? Describe the difference between contentment with where God has placed you, but continually striving for excellence.

21. What's Paul's main point in verses 9-11?

After talking about contentment, Paul again warns Timothy about the dangers of loving money. Money was a topic that Jesus talked a lot about. He obviously knew it would always be an issue for us humans! We saw how the love of money was judged severely in the early church by the example of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5). Money has the power to accomplish great good in the church but can corrupt men incredibly. Paul felt the need to instruct and warn Timothy on this issue.

22. What is the root of all kinds of evil?**23.** What kind of temptations or snares can people fall into that desire to be rich? What can the love of money result in?

The "love of money" translates "philarguria" which literally means "affection for silver." For some, God is replaced by gold. Paul said that many "pierced themselves through with many sorrows," or "with many a pang." They have caused themselves much grief by their wandering heart.

24. How and why can greediness cause people to stray from the faith?**25.** Is Paul teaching that it's wrong to have money or to be rich?**26.** Have you ever been led away from the truth because of the love of money? What temptations have you faced in your life in regard to this topic? (Are you in a snare right now? What should you do?)**27.** The world teaches us to desire luxury and comfort way beyond our physical needs. How consumed are you with luxury and comfort? (Be honest with yourself -- God knows your heart anyway.)

Paul now addresses Timothy on a personal level, mentor to friend. It's like he's talking right to him and we're eavesdropping!

28. What's his main point in verses 12-16? What is Paul's tone as he exhorts Timothy?

29. Timothy was supposed to **flee**, **follow**, and **fight**.

- A.** What was he supposed to flee?
- B.** What was he to follow?
- C.** What was he fighting?

You, O woman of God, are you fleeing?

You, O woman of God, are you following?

You, O woman of God, are you fighting the good fight?

This list may be defined like this: "**righteousness** is personal integrity and doing what's right before God, **godliness** is practical piety, **faith** is confident trust in God for everything, **love** is agape, the sacrificial, encompassing love for God and others, **patience** is endurance and perseverance, and **gentleness** is kindness and meekness, or power under control."

30. Are you leaving out any of the above in your pursuit of holiness?

Which of the ones mentioned is most lacking in your life? What can you do to follow after it more diligently?

Paul was reminding Timothy to stay pure before the Lord in his personal life. John Owens said this: "A minister may fill his pews, his communion roll, the mouths of the public, but what that minister is on his knees in secret before God Almighty, that he is and no more." May these words encourage us all to flee, follow and fight!

31. In verse 12, what do you think Paul means by the phrase "lay hold of eternal life"?

Timothy's confession before many witnesses refers to his public confession of faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9). He was to maintain an eternal perspective and not get entangled with the things of the world (2 Timothy 2:4).

Paul "urges" or "charges" Timothy to "keep the commandment" in verse 14. It is God who "gives life to all things" or "makes all things alive." We don't have to fear the battle, because we know how powerful God is. He is in charge of all life, including Timothy's! Paul also reminds Timothy that Jesus was the best example of one who held fast to His confession. He remained faithful to God, no matter what the cost. Jesus never compromised, and He entrusted His life to God. Paul exhorted Timothy to do the same!

The Lord's return should be a motivation to remain faithful to a man, or woman, of God (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Later, Paul tells Timothy that there is a crown of righteousness for all those who have loved His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8). This hope keeps us going through the hard times of life and ministry. It's the **LIVING HOPE!** The **UNSTOPPABLE HOPE!** The **UNBREAKABLE HOPE!**

32. When will Christ appear? (Mark 13:32)

33. Paul gets excited and talks about the incredible greatness of God in verses 15-16. What does he say about Him?

Paul says that God is "blessed" which describes His lack of unhappiness, frustration, and anxiety. He is content, satisfied, and fulfilled. The title "Potentate" comes from a word meaning power, or sovereign. He alone is God; He alone has power over the universe. He alone is ruler and as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords", He alone has authority. This title is used of Jesus (Revelation 17:14, 19:16), but here refers to God the Father.

34. Which description or title for God specifically speaks to your heart today from this section?

Paul returns to the topic he was talking about after his short personal appeal to Timothy.

35. What two warnings to the rich does Paul give in verse 17? What did he tell the rich to do?
36. What happens when we trust in riches? (Read Psalm 49:6-12 and Proverbs 11:28.)
37. Describe the heart attitude that a godly rich person should have, according to 17-19.
38. How's your heart? Are you rich in good works, willing to give, and willing to share? When you do have some money, are you a miser, keeping it all for yourself? How is this opposite of what Paul say to do?
39. Do you think God is happy with your spending habits? (Have you ever asked Him?)
40. What was Timothy supposed to guard? (Guard refers to keeping valuables in a safe place.)

I once read that there are 7 ways to guard the truth. **First**, by believing the truth. **Second**, by honoring His Word. **Third**, by loving the Word. **Fourth**, by obeying the Word. **Fifth**, by proclaiming the Word. **Sixth**, by defending the Word. And **seventh**, by studying the Word.

I'd like to leave you with the same exhortation as Paul gave Timothy as we end our lesson, as well as the book of 1 Timothy. Guard the truth! It has been entrusted to you. Hold fast to sound doctrine as long as you live. Look forward to His appearing, and until He comes ... be found faithful!