

1 Timothy 6 - Godliness with Contentment

LET as many ^dservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that / the name of God and his doctrine be not ^oblasphemed.

² And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are ^bbrethren; but rather do them service, because they are ³faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

³ If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to ^owholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine ^pwhich is according to godliness;

⁴ He is ⁴proud, ⁵knowing nothing, but ⁶doting about questions and ⁷strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising,

⁸ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, ⁹supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

¹⁰ But ¹¹godliness with contentment is great gain.

¹² For ¹³we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

¹⁴ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

¹⁵ But ¹⁶they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, ¹⁷which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁸ For ¹⁹the love of money is the root of all evil: which while

v1-2 Slaves to honour masters

Slavery was a fact of life in those days. Slaves are exhorted to respect their masters and honour them, as a way of preaching the gospel. Submission like this is not easy, but God's ways come first: **Eph 6v5-7; Titus 2v9-10**. The key was to look beyond the present to future glory, following in Christ's footsteps: **Isa 53v7; Heb 12v2; 1 Pet 2v20-25**.

The **yoke** is often used in Scripture for believers' humble subjection to an oppressive world: **Mt 11v28-30**. As believers, our actions are often scrutinised by those outside. It is a very serious mistake to cause unbelievers to blaspheme: **2 Sam 12v14; Rom 2v24; Titus 2v5**.

v2 NIV "because those who benefit from their service are believers." Christ's words are an incentive for service: **Matt 25v40,45**.

v3-5 Warning of false Teachers:

Similar warnings in **2 Pet 2v1-3**. Envy and strife causes division: **Rom 16v17; 1 Cor 1v10; 3v3; 11v18**. It is demoniacal: **James 3v14-16**.

Christ taught submission in the face of persecution: **Matt 5v38-44; 26v67**. Doctrine (teaching) and godliness (character) are linked together and should be in harmony.

Godliness: Key theme, see **1 Tim 2v2,10; 3v16; 4v7,8; 6v3,5,6,11**.

v6-8 Godliness with contentment: See **Eccl 5v15; Lk 3v14; 2 Cor 12v9-10; Phil 4v11-13; Heb 13v8**. A theme of **1 Tim 6** is that present circumstances are not important compared with eternity. God is rather concerned that we develop our characters - Godliness with contentment in whatever our circumstances. The gospel is a free gift, not a business venture: **Isa 55v1; Acts 8v20; 1 Pet 5v2**. The great challenge through the ages has been to see beyond the present. To trust in things not seen, to look for a future reward: **Heb 11v6,13,39-40**. Job understood this principle: **Job 1v21**. **Key quote:** **Lk 12v15-22** Jesus says our life does not consist of what we possess. In doing so he alludes to the life of Elijah in **v24,35,42,49,54**. What were Elijah's possessions?

v9-10 The love of money: "is a root of all kinds of evil" (NIV) A snare is a trap that tricks by deceit. Judas' greed led to him betraying Christ, resulting in his destruction: **Jn 12v6; Acts 1v18**.

v11 Antidote to temptation: The solution is to fill our lives with the positive aspects of the gospel: **Rom 13v14; Gal 5v16**.

v12 Fight the good fight of faith:

Military term also used by Paul in **Eph 6v11**. Paul's Spiritual warrior is in **Eph 6v13-19**: "Above all, taking the shield of faith." God's Word is a sharp sword: **Heb 4v12**. There are 7 elements to God's soldier in **Eph 6**, the 7th of which is prayer: **v19**. A soldier is wholly devoted to his cause: **2 Tim 2v4**.

Lay hold on Eternal life: Means to capture and seize. Not our possession now but the prize to be strived for: **Rom 2v7; 1 Cor 9v24; Phil 3v13-14**.

v13 Quickeneth: NIV "God, who gives life to everything."

Christ's **confession** was that he "came into the world to bear witness to the truth": **Jn 18v37**. To "witness" means to stand in the dock and testify. Gk. *martureo*, ie. **martyr**. A constant theme in **Revelation**, where believers throughout the ages follow Christ.

v14 Until: The words of **1 Timothy** are just as relevant to us today as they were to the first century ecclesia. **Christ's Appearing:** The hope of believers through the ages: **Matt 16v27; Acts 1v11; 2 Tim 4v1; Titus 2v13; 1 Thess 4v16; 2 Thess 2v8; Rev 1v7**.

v15 Potentate: A ruler of great authority. Christ and the Saints will come to reveal Yahweh to the world. The Saints are the "kings" and "lords": **Rev 17v14**. The Saints will be with Christ when he comes: **Zech 14v5; Deut 33v2; Psalms 68v17; Mal 4v3**.

"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. Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care." **1 Tim 6v19-20 NIV**

unto; ^owhom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in ^othis world, that they ^obe not highminded, ^onor trust in ^ouncertain riches, but in the living God, ^owho giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

¹⁸ That they do good, that ^othey be rich in good works, ready to distribute, ^owilling to communicate;

¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may ^olay hold on eternal life.

²⁰ O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding ^oprofane and vain babblings, and ^ooppositions of science falsely so called:

²¹ Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

^oThe first to Timothy was written from Laodicea, which is the chiefest city of Phrygia Pacatiana.

v19 The Treasures of the Coming Age and Eternal Life:

The Kingdom of God is a precious pearl of great price: **Matt 13v46**. Think about the real treasures we read of in **Psa 72; Isa 35; Isa 32v14-18; 41v18-20; 65v17-25; Mic 4v1-5; Rev 21v1-7; 22v1-5**. The Saints are a treasure to God: **Mal 3v17**. They are Yahweh's "inheritance": **Psa 33v12; Eph 1v18**.

v20 NIV "Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge." **Science:** Gk. *gnosis*, ie. "oppositions of science". May refer to Gnostic philosophy, a *supposed* higher form of intellectual reasoning.

v20-21 Final Plea: Guard what is Entrusted to your Care: We may think that **v19** is the conclusion. Paul's final plea in **1 Timothy** however refers to holding fast to what he has been taught. It is as if Paul can't help giving one final warning for Timothy to hold fast in difficult circumstances. In **1 Tim 6** he constantly emphasises the **truth**, the **faith** and the **doctrine: v1,3,5,10,11,12,21**. So get back to **the first principles**, the gospel of the Kingdom! These are Paul's exhortations to a young man who had responsibility of overseeing the Ecclesia: Paul was a man of genuine love, who cared for his bro's and sis's. Look at the emphasis in **1 Timothy: Doctrine: 1v3,10; 4v6,13,16; 5v17; 6v1,3. Faith: 1v2,4,5,14,19; 2v7,15; 3v9,13; 4v1,6,12; 6v10,11,12,21. Truth: 2v4,7; 3v15; 4v3; 6v5**.

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Study Week 2010. Much assistance for these notes has been gained from "Godliness with Contentment" by George Booker and Troy Halton. For a PDF file, email acldangerfield@webshield.net.au or download from www.studyweek.net First principles Bible marking sheets are also available.