

The Most Excellent Way

Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

“Godliness with Contentment”

HEART ATTITUDE: Seeking Godliness

“But godliness with contentment is great gain” (verse 6) is the key to spiritual growth and personal fulfillment. When we honor God and center our lives on Him, we will turn to Him first for help, we will fill our thoughts with His desires, we will take His character for our pattern, and we will serve and obey Him in everything. We will reap “godliness.”

Paul knew how to be content under all circumstances. We can trust God to always meet our needs (not necessarily our wants). We must rely on God's promises and Christ's power to help us be content. If we find we want more, we must ask God to remove that desire and teach us contentment. His focus is spiritual. Is yours?

1 TIMOTHY 6:3-12 (NIV)

If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching,

⁴He is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions

⁵And constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain.

⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

⁹People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

¹⁰For 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.

¹¹But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

¹²Fight 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.

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• FOCUSING

1. What evidence do you see of a lack of love for godly teaching?

2. Why do you think most people are or aren't content with what they have?

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- **STUDYING GOD'S WORD**

3. What do false teachers ignore? (6:3)

4. What harsh words did Paul have for those who teach false doctrines? (6:3-4)

5. In what did the false teachers of Paul's day have an unhealthy interest? (6:4)

6. What was the result of the false teachers' unhealthy interests? (6:4-5)

7. What did the false teachers of Paul's day really want? (6:5)

Paul told Timothy to avoid those who preached for profit, who strayed from the sound teachings of the Gospel into small doctrinal differences which causes strife in the church. Division often begins with quibbling over minute points of theology, which leads to all sorts of problems. A person's understanding of the finer points of theology should not become the basis for lording it over others or making money. Instead, theology should always unify Christians. Stay away from those who just want to argue.

8. What brings us great gain? (6:6)

9. What do we bring into the world? (6:7)

10. What will we take out of the world? (6:7)

11. With what should we be content? (6:8)

12. What often happens to people who want to get rich? (6:9)

13. What is a root of all kinds of evil? (6:10)

14. What price do some people eager for money pay? (6:10)

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Verses 6-10. Most people still believe that money brings happiness, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Rich people covet greater riches get caught in an endless cycle of amassing more wealth. Poor people often feel victimized, resenting those who have more than they.

15. What did Paul tell Timothy to pursue? (6:11)

How can you avoid the love of money? Paul's guidelines:

- (1) Realize that one day riches will all be gone (6:7, 17).
- (2) Be content with what you have (6:8).
- (3) Monitor what you are willing to do to get more money (6:9-10).
- (4) Love people more than money (6:11).
- (5) Love God's work more than money (6:11).
- (6) Freely share what you have with others (6:18).

16. What was Timothy urged to fight? (6:12)

17. What did Paul tell Timothy to take hold of? (6:12)

18. Before whom did Timothy make a confession? What kind? (6:12)

• **UNDERSTANDING**

19. What controversial false doctrines have been an issue in your church?

20. How could someone think that godliness was a means to financial gain?

21. How do people attempt to incorporate the person of Jesus into non-Christian teaching for their own purposes or profit?

22. Why is it hard to be content?

23. What would it take to make you content right now?

24. What get-rich-quick schemes (big or small) have you fallen for?

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25. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being very important), how important is money to you?

26. Why do you think that money is important or not very important?

27. How can you guard against placing too much stock in your personal possessions?

28. How does “the good fight” bring you around an eternal perspective?

29. In what way is the Christian life a fight?

30. How are we to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness?

31. What does it mean to “fight the good fight?”

• **DOING THE WORD**

32. What situation in life will you ask God's help for your contentment?

33. How will you pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance or gentleness in your life?

34. How can you train yourself to be fit for “the good fight of faith?”

May God richly bless you as you study His Word!