

**“Paul’s First Letter to Timothy —
Gain is Godliness?”**

Review: “On Establishing Order in the Churches, Practically Speaking — Part 2”

- ***Elders That Rule Well Are Worthy, Especially If They Labor in Doctrine***
- ***Son, Timothy, Has Heavenly Observers Overseeing His Ministry***
- ***Personal Needs in One’s Life Should Never Be Ignored***
- ***Good Works, Like Some Men’s Sins, Are Not Always Visible and Public***
- ***Separation from Some Is Essential to Godly Leading and Living***

- ***Elders That Rule Well Are Worthy, Especially If They Labor in Doctrine***

1 Tim. 5:17

17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

- ***The purpose of the local assemblies is the ministry of the word and Bible doctrine, that is so clear here. In other words, the teaching and witness of THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS FROM 1 TIM. 3:16. Order is being promoted here but not by power or dominion, but by fairness, kindness, and gentleness, with godliness always reigning. Amen.***

- ***Son, Timothy, Has Heavenly Observers Overseeing His Ministry***

1 Tim. 5:21-22

21 I charge [thee] before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

- ***“Angels are watching” AND yet, “Lay hands suddenly on no man”. This is similar to Phil. 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord [is] at hand. One might think that the former would demand a quick response. So, angels were watching and Timothy was exhorted as you go about your duties in Ephesus ... fair treatment of all is an absolute necessity in ministry, even in the selection of elders and other leaders in the church.***

- ***There is a principle of separation implied in these exhortations. A visible unity in never a substitute for the true Unity of the Spirit.***

- *Do we ever consider that the elect angels might be watching? Why are the angels watching us?*
- ***Personal Needs in One's Life Should Never Be Ignored***

1 Tim. 5:23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

- *Taking care for one's own health is not unspiritual, Paul is in effect writing here. There is a good lesson to be learned here for all of us. So wine would have been much safer for Timothy considering his intestinal issues.*
 - ***Good Works, Like Some Men's Sins, Are Not Always Visible and Public***
- 1 Tim. 5:24-25**
 24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some [men] they follow after.
 25 Likewise also the good works [of some] are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.
- *Paul here is writing that only after a proper period of evaluation should an elder (or a "widow indeed") be appointed to their work. There were some important principles for proper church management listed here, but more to the point was how Timothy was to minister and guide the churches in a godly manner is the central teaching. For "godliness" is the central theme of the letter and this is surely so in the section we will consider today.*

Our Scripture Today: 1 Tim. 6:1-12

Our Outline:

- ***The Lie: That Gain is Godliness***
- ***The Truth: That Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain***
- ***The Good Fight of Faith: The High Calling is Not Optional but Compelling***

I. The Lie: That Gain is Godliness:

[READ] 1 Tim. 6:3-5

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, [even] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,
5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

- *“If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, [even] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ”: These words were spoken to Paul by the ascended Lord Jesus. Paul teaches what Christ has revealed to him, period. This has to do you will remember, how slaves are to respect their masters! Though the relationship between masters and slaves was the challenging issue of the day, when both are believers, peace, harmony and mutual respect are hoped for and expected.*
- *Verses 3, 5, 6 & 11 again refer to “godliness”, the key word in this letter, occurring 10 times in Paul’s letters, 8 times in 1 Timothy and 4 times here in this chapter. This word is used in the Greek language as the opposite of “religion”. Religion is about an outward expression. “Godliness” is about an inward reality, and more — for godliness is the privilege of believers under God’s empowering for living under the abundance of his grace. Paul is strongly exhorting here that Timothy manifest the inward reality of his God-given and living spirit (called the “spirit of Christ” in Rom. 8:9) in outward expression but never with hypocrisy.*
 - *Those who will not accept the true and practical expression of “godliness” must be left behind, he adds here. For many want to promote what is really only their own “personal gain”, thereby causing divisions in the Body due to differences in race, position, and many other potentially polarizing issues of life. Proper separation from evil and evil doers, even in the churches, is thereby commanded and expected. Godly order in the assemblies requires it.*

It should go without saying that attempting an “unholy” union where none can rightfully be claimed, is to in effect turn the “holy” union of Eph. 4:5 (called there “the unity of the spirit”) into a lie, and indeed one that is satanic at its roots.

- *But ungodly kind of compromises are what the world system demands. But all that directly contrasts with what the apostle calls here in verse 3, “the doctrine which is according to godliness”. Its alternative, is as he writes here in verse 5, “supposing that gain is*

godliness.” May the true godliness prevail and that “lawlessness” of the enemy banished from the assemblies. May it be so!

IF THE LIE IS THAT “GAIN IS GODLINESS”, WHAT THEN IS THE TRUTH? MANAGING THE CHURCHES AS BUSINESSES IS SURELY FOCUSED ON WHAT IS EVIL THEREFORE AND NOT ON THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND GODLY. WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

II. The Truth: That Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain:

[READ] 1 Tim. 6:6-10

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out.

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

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

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- ***6 But godliness with contentment is great gain: **Some had “supposed that gain is godliness”. This is something to be thought about very carefully. The Greek word translated “gain” here is found only here and in the preceding verse 5: The definition is this: Thayer: πορισμός (porismos), -οῦ, ὁ, (πορίζω to cause a thing to get on well, to carry forward, to convey, to acquire; mid. to bring about or procure for one's self, to gain)*****
- ***7 For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out: 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content:***
 - ***Our response to these humbling words is only amen and amen.***
- ***9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows: **There is no health and wealth gospel here! That kind of thinking is anathema with the Lord God. Under the law there we promises regarding that but no longer.*****

Paul explicitly says that gain is NOT godliness and that rather contentment with godliness IS great gain. This is not only a beautiful statement of this truth but a powerful one too, isn't it?

- ***“Temptations and a snare”: Desiring riches blinds one to what is most important in life and enslaves one to powers of evil.***
 - ***“destruction and perdition”: A double curse is given here for those driven by the lusts of the flesh and spirit.***
 - ***“ ... drowning in destruction and perdition”: This is literally about the unraveling of the central essence of living as a believer. It is like cutting off the root of the tree.***
 - ***“The love of money is the root of all evil”: Note well that it is not money that is evil or that is the root of all evil. It is the “love of money” that is such, not money itself.***
- ***There is such a large contrast that Paul is drawing here between the ways of satan's world and the way of the Lord God under grace. Let us not forget what he wrote earlier:***

[READ] 1 Tim. 3:14-16

14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

16 **And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**

- ***There are a number of characteristics of that way and they all are essential benefits of the rule of grace in this dispensation of the grace of God:***
- ***The indwelling - we are the temple of God, including the risen Son and the Holy Spirit in addition to the Father! And there are NO OTHER HOLY PLACES!***
 - ***The Father indwells***
 - ***The Son, life giving and risen from the dead, indwells***

- ***The Holy Spirit indwells — and all PERMANENTLY!***
 - ***We are all members of the Body of Christ, a truly heavenly organism with Christ as Head and us as members.***
 - ***Liberty and not bondage from the Law and all law. Instead of the demands of the law for its prescribed works, we are enabled to bring forth fruit unto God and his glory!***
 - ***Joy and peace in the spirit are ours to cling to no matter what. Don't let the enemy steal away your joy in the Lord. Never! Always rest in him for we are not citizens of this world but of a heavenly kingdom. Amen.***
 - ***And his grace is always sufficient.***
- ***So, therefore, worldly gain, even if seemingly “religious”, is not gain with the Lord God. It is loss. Only what is based on Christ will last. We are the saints of God, not religious proselytes.***

III. The Good Fight of Faith: The High Calling is Not Optional but Compelling:

- ***We have now reached the ending of this letter. Paul's sober exhortations to Timothy, his son in the faith, now necessarily reach their crescendo. It is simple and his words few, but the power is great and Timothy was well warned here in these words to expect, for it was to be the fight of his life.***

[READ] 1 Tim. 6:11-12

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Compare 2 Tim. 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- ***Flee: This is translated “seek safety by flight” in one dictionary. Remember Joseph and Potipherah's wife? Fleeing or running away was his best defense.***

1 Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above

that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].

- ***Ah, a way, even “the” way of escape. Finding this “way” is the challenge of our days. Otherwise the days are “evil”. We MUST redeem the time therefore (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5).***
- ***“follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness”: This speaks of “pursuing a goal without ceasing”.***
- ***“Fight the good fight of faith”: “Fight” is literally “to struggle”. This is a struggle that for good ministers of the faith is not optional. Paul in Ephesians says it so well:***

[READ] Eph. 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].

There are also many other similar statements in Paul’s letters. For example in 1 Cor. 9:25-27 & Col. 4:12. But 2 Timothy has several written at the end of his life that we should not ignore:

Paul has declared Timothy to be a “soldier indeed” and to lead others in battle as well. This is spiritual warfare at the highest level of importance:

2 Tim. 2:1-3

1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

[READ] 2 Tim. 4:7-8

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

This is perhaps that greatest utterance of Paul’s life written anywhere. This is Paul’s last will and testament. What is ours?

- ***“... lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called”: This speaks of a personal attachment to that which is eternal and the resurrected life of Christ in us that is so precious and empowering. May we never turn away from that, no matter what.***
- ... “hast professed a good profession before many witnesses”: ***Let the past be your guide, Timothy. The battles have just begun! Do not be timid but be prepared for battle. The Lord is leading us all to victory.***

Application:

- ***There are so many lessons for us here. In this electoral season, with the most consequential election of our times now past, and many struggles continuing to comprehend the full magnitude of fraud that we now are seeing in our beloved nation, let us never forget Paul’s words here at the opening of chapter 6 of this letter to Timothy: “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 raiment let us be therewith content.” This is the challenge of our days and years, should the Lord not call us home first.***
- ***Satan seeks to twist and turn true godliness upside down thereby replacing the true and authentic work of God by satan’s own work. Either way God is not honored and “the mystery of godliness” is not displayed in God’s people. Amen.***
- “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 raiment let us be therewith content.”