

Sermon: **“True Gain” (1 Timothy 6:3-10)**

Date: **November 17, 2019**

There are two topics that the Bible has a lot to say about: false teachers and money. In this week’s text, both topics collide as the apostle Paul warns Timothy to watch out for false teachers that are out for dishonest gain, teaching a different doctrine than what our Lord Jesus Christ taught. The false teachers that Paul warns about in this text specifically are those who teach that godliness will lead to gain—that the more you obey Christ and the more faith you have, the more money and possessions God will bless you with. This is a false gospel. Paul contrasts this false teaching with this truth: “Godliness with contentment is great gain,” (1 Timothy 6:6). When one pursues godliness, and is content regardless of their circumstances and material wealth (or lack thereof), they will experience great gain. But those who desire to be rich will fall into a snare. Paul writes, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils,” (2 Timothy 6:10).

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

**Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read 1 Timothy 6:3-10 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
  - a. In verse 3, Paul warns about those who teach a different doctrine. Different from what?
  - b. Summarize what Paul means in verse 3 by “the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness.”
  - c. What does needless controversy and quarreling about words lead to according to verses 4-5?
  - d. Contrast the characteristics of a false teacher given in verses 4-5 with the qualifications for elders given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
  - e. Paul says that godliness with contentment is great gain. What is godliness? What is contentment?
  - f. Why is it “great gain” to be godly and content regardless of our circumstances or material wealth?

- g. What is the opposite of contentment (see verse 9)?
  
- h. Paul says that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Explain what he means by this. What kinds of evils can the love of money lead to?
  
- i. Is it an evil thing to be rich? Explain. See 1 Timothy 6:17.

**Group Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
  
2. Can money or riches every satisfy the human heart? Why or why not?
  
3. Read verse 9. Why is it so easy for us to fall into this common temptation? How can we fight against this?
  
4. Paul so clearly warns against prosperity preachers in this text. Despite this, why do you think prosperity preachers and their theology is still such a prevalent problem in the world today?
  
5. What does it mean to be content? Why does Paul say that godliness and contentment is great gain? How can we learn to be content with what we have?
  
6. If we are discontent with our situation, what might that say about our relationship with Christ?
  
7. Can someone be truly content without Jesus Christ? Explain.