

# **1 Tim 6 v3-10 False teachers, money & happiness**

**1) False teachers v3-5**

**2) Godliness & contentment v6**

**3) The contented poor v7-8**

**4) Matt 6 v19-24 your heart & where you store treasure**

**5) The covetous poor v9-10**

**6) Our consumer culture**

## 1) False teachers v3-5

Timothy was in Ephesus – home of the God Artemis/Diana with a grand temple larger than a football pitch.

Likely there were some troublesome women leading this cult.

So far we've heard about:

1 v3 - some were teaching false doctrines, myths & genealogies encouraging controversy & not advancing God's work.

4 v1 – hypocritical liars who forbid marriage & insist on people abstaining from certain foods

## 1) False teachers v3-5

“If anyone **teaches otherwise** (*gk hetero didaskaleo* – *lit other teaching*) & doesn’t agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus & to godly teaching, they are conceited understand nothing.” v3.

False teachers were divisive v4-5

False teachers thought godliness is a means to financial gain v5

Exactly how we don’t know but the cult of Diana was big business for Ephesus.

Acts 19 v23-26 tells of unhappy silversmiths on the occasion of Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to the city

Then Paul picks up on the idea of gain . . .

## 2) Godliness with contentment v6

“But godliness with contentment (*gk autarkeia*) is great gain . . .”

4 v7-8 physical training of some value “but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for this life & the life to come.”

“I know what it is to be in need, & I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content (*gk autarkes*) in any & every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” Phil 4 v12-13

### 3) The contented poor v7-8

“For we brought nothing into this world & we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food & clothing, we will be content with that.”

clothing (*gk skepasma*) – *lit ‘a covering’ - includes idea of shelter*

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb & naked I will depart. The LORD gave & the LORD has taken away . .” Job 1 v21.

Do you struggle to be happy with a simple lifestyle?

It helps to remember God is a happy God:

“concerning the glory of the **blessed** God” 1 Tim 1v11

Our desire for happiness is legitimate:

“God, who richly provides us with everything **for our enjoyment.**”

1 Tim 6 v17

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and **to enjoy him** for ever.

(Westminster shorter catechism)

## 4) Matt 6 v19-24 – Treasures on earth

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . .  
. . where moths & vermin (or rust) destroy & where thieves break in & steal”

What are these treasures?



Why not store them up?

Treasures have a limited life.  
‘for yourselves’ – self centred

You should want to bless others  
“blessed are the merciful . .” Mt 5 v7



1 Tim 6 v17-19a “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous & willing to share. 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.”

2 principles:

Put your hope in God not material things.

Use the material of this world in the light of the world to come.



## Matt 6 v19-24 – Treasures in heaven

“but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. .  
. . where moths & vermin (or rust) do not destroy & where thieves do  
not break in & steal”

What are these treasures?

Acting justly

Walking humbly

Loving mercy

Spreading the gospel



Why are they better than those on earth?

They last forever.

They make us truly happy.

**Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**

Note the progression:

v19/20 “storing up treasures”

v21 “. . where your treasure is your heart will be also.”

v24 we can only serve one master:  
God (in heaven) or Money (on earth).

How important is your heart?

“ Above all else guard your heart, it is the well spring of life” Prov 4  
v23

## **Matt 6 v19-24**

### **The eye is the lamp of the body (v22-23)**



“If your eyes are healthy (good), your whole body will be full of light. If your eyes are unhealthy (bad), your whole body will be full of darkness.”

The word for healthy/good can mean ‘generous’ or ‘singleness of purpose’

Other verses about eyes:

“My eyes have grown dim with grief;” Job 17 v7

“the LORD hates . . . haughty eyes,” Prov 6 v17

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened . .” Eph 1 v18

**Eyes are the gate to the heart**

“If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”  
v23b

If we don't keep the eyes of our heart healthy . .  
**. . we go blind!**

Not physical but spiritual sight:

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

Heb 11 v1

“. . even though you do not see him now you believe in him & are filled with an inexpressible & glorious joy.” 1 Pet 1 v8b

“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law” Ps 119 v18

**When you use your eyes – what do you see, where do you linger?**

“Be careful little eyes what you see

It's the second glance that ties your hands

As darkness pulls the strings . .

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see

For the Father up above is looking down in love

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.”

(from “Slow fade” Casting Crowns)

## **No one can serve two masters (Matt 6 v24)**

“You cannot serve both God & Money – you will love the one & hate the other”

## **5) The covetous poor 1 Tim 6 v9-10**

“Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap & into many foolish & harmful desires that plunge people into ruin & destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith & pierced themselves with many griefs.”

## **6) Our consumer culture**

You need this to be happy, then that, then this also . .

Mass production in factories & desire for maximum business profits has fuelled the rise of advertising.

Read part of J Benton book p101.

Advertising is constantly massaging a feeling of dissatisfaction with life as it is.

The cure is to buy the product & feel much happier

But it's a lie!

## Summing up:

Beware false teachers - Is it other than Christ's teaching?  
Does it divide people? What motivates the leaders?

Put your hope in God not material things.  
Use the material of this world in the light of the world to come.  
Christians can live a simple life & be content.  
This is a powerful witness in our consumer culture

“ . . give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much & disown you & say ‘Who is the LORD?’ or I may become poor & steal, & so dishonour the name of God.” Prov 30 v8-9