

Gospel Talk Bible Study
1 & 2 Timothy: "Intentional Discipleship"
1 Timothy 6:1-10 (Warning and Instruction)

September 26, 2018

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. (1 Timothy 6:6-7)

I. Instructions for Christian Slaves (vv. 1-2)

- a. There are four types of bondservants (slaves) listed in this text. They were not typical "slaves" common to our national history.
- b. Some historians estimated that half of the population of the Roman Empire were bondservants.
- c. Many of them were cultured and educated. They were doctors, lawyers, teachers, maids, fieldworkers, etc., but legally they were not considered as persons. Not real citizenship.
- d. The freedom found in the Gospel message appealed to slaves and many became believers.
 1. There was a problem: Some slaves used their freedom in Christ to disobey their masters.
- e. Paul instructed Timothy on how to deal with this social conflict.
- f. Slaves with unbelieving masters: remain obedient to the unsaved master for this will bring glory to God.
- g. Slaves with believing masters: Though the two are "brothers in Christ". The slave should still respect the social order in their relationship. Love does not rebel. Serve in the will of God.

II. False Teacher Awareness (vv.3-5)

- a. Church leadership must constantly oversee what is being taught in the church, because it is easy for false teaching to slip in. (Acts 20:28-32) Revealing signs of false teachers:
- b. They refuse to adhere to sound doctrine of Jesus Christ. Gospel teaching is godly and it promotes godliness.
- c. No humility in the teacher's attitude. False teachers are prideful know it alls with all the answers.
 1. An inflated ego. A spirit-filled teacher will have a burning heart, not a big head.
 2. They argue, quarrel, and revel in constant friction about little things.
 3. The motivation for their teaching is financial gain.
- d. There is nothing wrong with having money, but the motivation for obtaining the money is often times a stumbling block. (v.9-10) Some people use ministry as a "religious ministry."
- e. Sound teaching comes from Christ and it produces righteousness. We can evaluate biblical teaching by asking questions.
 1. *Does it tend to unite or divide the church? Does it promote godliness with contentment, or covetousness?*

III. Be Content (vv.6-8)

- a. The word *contentment* means "an inner sufficiency that keeps us at peace in spite of outward circumstances." (Phil. 4:11)
- b. What is true contentment? True contentment comes from godliness in the heart not wealth in the hand. (Luke 12:18-19)
 1. A person who depends on wealth and the material will never be satisfied.
- c. Food, clothing and shelter are basic needs, if we lose them, we lose the ability to gain other things.
- d. Perhaps, we are so inundated with luxuries that we have forgotten how to enjoy our necessities.

IV. Thought and Considerations for Action

- a. Like it, love it, I gotta have it.
- b. Describe how your needs and wants changed over time?