

## **Two Lane Track**

### **1 Timothy 6:3-16**

In the 2010 Vancouver winter Olympics Dutch athlete Sven Kramer was the favorite to win the men's 10,000-meter speed skate. Sven had won his last 18 10,000 meters races and already had gold in the 5,000-meter speed skate from the previous week. Speed skating is simple, the fastest person around the track wins, there are two lanes and you must alternate lanes between laps. One lap in the outside lane then one lap on the inside lane for 25 laps. Sven's time was on track to break an Olympic record and to seal the gold. But on the 17<sup>th</sup> lap his coach shouts "inside" and against his instincts Sven cuts to the inside lane. It was too late, Sven's coach Gerard Kemkers had told him the wrong lane and with one bad piece of information Sven was disqualified. His coach realized his costly error, but Sven did not know it at the time and continued to push and skate the final laps, and as he crossed the finish line he raised his hands in the air in celebration, he had the gold and the new Olympic record, he thought. Until on the ice his coach skated over and told him that it was over, he had been disqualified. His coach's instruction had cost Sven the gold medal and crushed the hearts of Sven and the Dutch people.

We see that in speed skating one piece of bad information can send you down the wrong lane and cost you everything. In order to protect and equip ourselves against a similar mistake in our Christian life, I want us to hear from God on what to watch out for and which lane you should be racing in, to keep you from the pain of ruin and destruction and to see you through victorious to the finish line.

The good news is that God has given clear instruction on which lane to race in, there is no faulty or misleading information coming from God, so we are wise to listen to Him. We can be confident that if we stay in the lane He has shown us and avoid the lane He disqualifies then He will see us through to victory and we will be kept from many pangs. Let God coach you to the victor's circle.

Today we are going to examine two lanes for life, one filled with ruin, destruction and pain, the other full of eternal life.

1 Tim 6:3-16

3-10 is the wrong lane

11-16 is the right lane

## **Background**

1 Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul to his protégée and son in the faith Timothy. Paul wrote to Timothy to instruct him on how to conduct himself and instruct the church in the city of Ephesus. This letter gives us a direct account of what the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and God has given it to us for our instruction and growth. Timothy was a minister in Ephesus and this is Apostolic instruction from Paul. Timothy is still learning from the holy Apostle Seminary and Bible college. What I like about this book is the direct personal information Paul is giving Timothy. It is as if the apostle Paul wrote an inspired letter to Pastor Matt. “Pastor Matt, watch out for false teachers, don’t rebuke an older man, be sure to be praying for our civic leaders.” What is nice is that Pastor Matt has received a lot of instruction yet he has had to filter it through the Word of God, this instruction from Paul to Timothy is straight Word of God, this is straight from the source and uncorrupted. That means it is not up for debate. This passage is not based on someone’s philosophy or opinion, “well I think, well I’ve heard...” Nope, just a big dose of “thus says God!” The passage we are going through today is clear and straightforward instruction. There is little debate about what it says. This passage will show us the wrong lane and the right lane God wants his people to walk in.

The Wrong lane 3-10 The lane that leads to destruction.

**People in the wrong lane- False teachers and their friend. We will see they bring disagreement, discord, dissatisfaction and destructive desires.**

Like the coach who sent the skater down the wrong lane false teachers are sending billions to destruction.

- 1) We must address the fact that many in our day don’t even accept the notion of false teaching. Our day is a day of everything goes, your view is your view and as long as there is consent it must be true and right. To admit that there are false teachers is to admit there is a right and a wrong. This confronts the individual autonomous self head on in a challenge for dominance. To yield and admit that there is false teaching now puts on the table the possibility for true teaching which you could be accountable to. If you are the source of right and wrong, truth and error then you get to decide what goes. With this type of thinking You have moved into the land of nonsense. The moment you think or express that what

another person does is good or bad, right or wrong you have just shown that you don't actually think each person is the source of truth otherwise you would be ok with everything and anything people think, say and do. To deny false teaching is just a weak cover hide in your own sins. You will accept whatever nonsense quiets your conscience for a moment. You may avoid accepting the truth by trying to reason your way out of it but you will never reason your way out of being accountable to God.

- 2) False teachers and teaching are real and dangerous. This is a shocking statement. Who am I to say someone is a false teacher, well don't worry about me lets just look at the Bible.

### **Nature of false teaching-Disagreement- Different Doctrine (6:3)**

Three qualifications given, it does not match what Paul has taught timothy, it does not match the teaching of Jesus nor line up with godly living. Godly living results from true doctrine, false doctrine always results in ungodliness.

*Teach and urge these things.* <sup>3</sup> *If anyone*—Not just official teachers. Who is anyone? Are you anyone? Is the internet anyone? Are blogs anyone? Is twitter anyone? Is facebook anyone? Is your friend anyone? Is your family anyone? Are your school teachers anyone? Is your therapist anyone? Not limited to only recognized teachers but anyone giving out information.

*teaches a different doctrine* “Whoever gives instructions that are different from these,” or else “Whoever teaches things that are different from my instructions to you ...”<sup>1</sup> Any teaching that contradicts God's revelation in Scripture.

*and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ* These are the words of Christ and all related teachings concerning Him including the gospel. He is the source of

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<sup>1</sup> Daniel C. Arichea and Howard Hatton, [A Handbook on Paul's Letters to Timothy and to Titus](#), UBS Handbook Series (New York: United Bible Societies, 1995), 141.

*and the teaching that accords with godliness*, the teachings that result in morally upright living<sup>2</sup> describes a life totally consecrated to God<sup>3</sup>. Any teaching that justifies sinful actions or in the end leads to them is a sure sign of false teaching.

How can you know if someone is promoting false teaching? They are in constant disagreement with the truth of the Bible.

Test for false teaching: 1. Does not match what Paul has taught Timothy

2. Does not line up with the gospel and truth of Christ

3. Does not produce godly living and true devotion to God

Test for you. Are you in constant disagreement with the Bible and the church

Do you constantly disagree with what you hear at church?

Do you ever read your Bible? If you do, is it done with a critical eye?

Do you think the Bible is a nice book but its outdated and not up with the times?

Do you accept only some parts of the Bible? "I'm a Christian but..."

Who do you think Jesus is?

Do you accept salvation can only be found in Jesus? Acts 4.12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Do you believe Islam is a false religion?

What about Hinduism?

-If you find yourself leaning towards disagreement: Be willing to be submissive to the Word of God. Let the Word be your teacher not your own passions. Accept the fact that you may have been deceived and that with proper study you can know what God says.

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<sup>2</sup> Daniel C. Arichea and Howard Hatton, [A Handbook on Paul's Letters to Timothy and to Titus](#), UBS Handbook Series (New York: United Bible Societies, 1995), 142.

<sup>3</sup> William D. Mounce, [Pastoral Epistles](#), vol. 46, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 2000), 336.

We just saw the nature of those in the wrong lane. They are in constant disagreement with the truth. Now we see the mind of false teachers and the discord they bring.

### **Mind of false teachers-Discord**

*<sup>4</sup> he is puffed up with conceit* “to be so arrogant as to be practically demented—‘to be insanely arrogant, to be extremely proud, to be very arrogant.’<sup>4</sup>

*and understands nothing.* (He is a total idiot.) these teachers are arrogant but ignorant<sup>5</sup>

### **Discord**

*He has an unhealthy craving for controversy* a person who knows nothing but craves to be involved in disputes may be either filled with a baseless pride or he is simply foolish<sup>6</sup>

*and for quarrels about words,* They engage in pseudo-intellectual word gymnastics instead of just reading and studying the Bible for what it plainly says. If anyone comes with a teaching that only they and their secret group know about then they are false teachers.

*which produce* This is the fruit that develops out of ignorant controversies<sup>7</sup> This is contrasted with the teaching that accords with godliness. The Bible is the Holy Spirit’s book and if you are following His teachings you should be producing His fruit. But those who follow their own darkened mind it produces discord

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<sup>4</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, [Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains](#) (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 764.

<sup>5</sup> Douglas Mangum and E. Tod Twist, [1 Timothy](#), ed. Douglas Mangum and Derek R. Brown, Lexham Bible Guide (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2013), 1 Ti 6:3–5.

<sup>6</sup> Richard C. Blight, [An Exegetical Summary of 1 Timothy](#) (Dallas, TX: SIL International, 2009), 346.

*envy*, a state of ill will toward someone because of some real or presumed advantage experienced by that a person <sup>8</sup>

*dissension*, strife, conflict that results from rivalry and discord<sup>9</sup> Having no real Biblical position or argument they try to bring division.

*slander*, speaking against someone in such a way as to harm or injure his or her reputation <sup>10</sup>

*evil suspicions*, an opinion based on scant evidence, and this often results in accepting a false opinion to be true<sup>11</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth*, When people lose hold on the truth they become corrupt in mind and start quarrels that bring about strife *imagining that godliness is a means of gain*. In the end they are trying to get theirs. A major tenant of false teaching is the promise for wealth. If anyone tells you God wants you to be rich or its God's will for you to be rich they are a false teacher. They think they can use God to get rich. We have seen those who try to use wealth to gain godliness, Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8, Johann Tetzl and the sale of catholic indulgences. But in this case it is those who think getting in good with God is a means of gaining wealth. Now because they are false teachers they will play word games "so you are saying God wants me to be poor" God wants you to be whatever he wants you to be. However these false teachers are trying to get rich from religion. There are many approached these false teachers take, pyramid scheme church planting, charging for blessings or

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special prayers, promising that if you give to their ministry God will multiply your money “seed giving,” indulgences: your sins will be forgiven.

If you find yourself leaning towards an attitude of discord you need to humble yourself. Confess your sin of arrogance and seek for the unity of the faith. We should be happy for others who God has blessed rather than trying to

We see that those in the wrong lane are in constant disagreement with the truth

They are sowing seeds of discord

And they have a heart of discontent

#### **Answer to false teaching (Lane adjustment)**

In contrast to the discontent heart of the false teachers Paul reminds Timothy the true heart of the man of God. It is contentment.

*<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain,* Peace with God and your situation, is amazing. It is being content with one’s state or condition in life.

Reason:

*<sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.* The reason given that “*godliness with contentment is great gain*” is the fleeting nature of wealth. You didn’t bring any wealth into the world and everything that belongs to this world is going to be left behind once you depart.

*<sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.* The conclusion is that we need not seek more than we need while we are in the world, let us be content with the necessities of life.

*Challenges come daily to battle this:* Advertisement is in direct opposition to this principle. We are exposed to 362 ads per day and close to 5000 brands.

-We should be looking to be content NOW. Today.

A mark of the false teachers was their desire for gain, They were discontent with what they had in life. Paul reminds Timothy, “We” are people who are content with what God provides. Let us be content with the necessities of life.

We may say to ourselves:

“Once I have a sustainable organic farm in my yard then I will be content.”

“Once I have a whole new wardrobe tailor fit for me then I will be content.”

“so, you want me wear a potato sack”

1) where in the world would you ever get a potato sack

2) Why are you fighting what God is saying.

-Real challenges to contentment:

Mukbar and Abraham, only had a piece of corn.

Some of you have perhaps faced heartbreaking poverty. With little to eat and little to cover you.

Psalm 107 a psalm of hope

Psalm 107: For he satisfies the longing soul,

and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Practical measures

-Count your blessings

-Know that God is in Control

-Your situation will not go on forever

-You have a home in heaven

A mark of the false teachers was their desire for gain, They were discontent with what they had in life. Paul reminds Timothy, “We” are people who are content with what God provides. We should not get covetous of those around us who prosper for a season, contentment is trusting that God knows best and has given us everything we need to live for Him.



Luke 12

We see that those in the wrong lane are in constant disagreement with the truth (6:3)

They are sowing seeds of discord and division (6:4-5)

And they have a discontent disposition (6:6-8)

Finally, they have a destructive desire for wealth (6:9-10)

### **Destructive Desire**

<sup>9</sup> *But those who desire to be rich* This ‘desire’ is to be rich at any cost and to do it quickly. God’s formula, skill X effort = production value.

*fall into temptation*, They are tempted to acquire money in a wrong way. If you are trying to out run, out smart, out maneuver Cesar, it would be a safe bet that you have fallen into temptation.

*into a snare*, This is sudden, swift, trapping you in its clutches.

*into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.*

<sup>10</sup> *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.* Can you imagine a sin that hasn’t been committed for the love of money.

*It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.* Gambling your house, your relationships, your job, your children away. This lust can be hidden under many disguises. I can not unveil them all for you. All I can do is ask, Do you have a love for money? Let the Holy Spirit search your heart, let Him bring conviction. Are you willing to lie, deceive, and hope you are not caught in order to gain wealth? Do you skim off the top, fudge the numbers, not report everything you brought in, make side deals? You will be plunged into ruin. You need to settle now, you need to accept the simplicity of the necessities

of life and live at peace. Or sudden destruction will come upon you. You will begin to wander away from the faith all for the love of a fleeting dollar.

-What is their outcome: Revelation 18

1 We see that those in the wrong lane are in constant disagreement with the truth (6:3)

2 They are sowing seeds of discord (6:4-5)

3 And they have a heart of discontent (6:6-8)

4 they have a destructive desire for wealth (6:9-10)

*wandered away from the faith* Don't use your understanding of eternal security as an excuse to remain in sin.

-This is the lane that leads to destruction. So now let us move lanes and let God coach us to the victor's circle

## **Pursue Christian character 11-16**

*<sup>11</sup> But as for you, O man of God,* The big contrast. reminder of who you are. The following commands are just moralisms without a new heart. You must be a man or woman of God in order to live this out. These commands are not means by which you make yourself right before God, they are commands to live out the new life given to those who have been forgiven and born again.

*flee these things.* You know if you see them you need to run, escape, remove yourself, shun these practices and thoughts.

This is the lane you need to compete in. The Christian life is not just about fleeing and dying to self but pursuing and living to God. In this way we put away the deeds of the flesh by living out life in the Spirit.

Pursue-fight-take hold-keep  
 Run after-agonize-grasp-hold Like a lion and its prey, we must flee these deceptive lusts and hunt for Christ

*Pursue* Let me just say that there are some who might hold to a skewed view of grace, what we might call a hyper-grace. If your view of sanctification does not involve obedience to clear and direct commands of God you have a faulty theology. You are either missing a wheel or one of the wheels on of your theology is way out of proportion. This is a straight up, clear as day command, You are commanded by God to pursue, to run after these virtues.

*righteousness*, outward behavior in doing what is right. conduct that is in accord with God's will and is pleasing to him

*godliness*, inward life fully consecrated to God

*faith*, trust and reliance on God

*love*, concern for others

*steadfastness*, enduring or remaining steadfast under trials

*gentleness*. Opposite of proud, self-assertive, swaggering demeanor that the world celebrates. Having patience and being considerate of others.

What if this was your morning workout routine, if you prayed and aimed to live this out every day. This is what God is calling you to. This is to be your pursuit.

<sup>12</sup> *Fight the good fight of the faith*. It's a battle, it will not be easy. It will cost you.

*Take hold of the eternal life* You possess the riches of eternal life now and forever more. Live in light of eternity. The prize is yours. Your sins have been forgiven, You have been granted the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior. You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, NOW! Like a racer who can take the lead you need to move into your privileged position and no longer let sin defeat you.

*to which you were called* Your salvation was no mistake God has done His work  
*and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.* And you  
 have responded.

### **Highest command**

<sup>13</sup> *I charge you in the presence of God,*  
*who gives life to all things,* Nothing will slip through His plans  
*and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession,* we  
 can have confidence that your not living in vain.

<sup>14</sup> *to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord*  
*Jesus Christ,* Remain in the lead until Christ returns for you. Live a life that does not bring shame  
 to the name of God. Stop living a defeated life, you must continue to battle, you must continue to  
 pursue, you must continue to flee sin, you must take hold of eternal life. Christ will return.

<sup>15</sup> *which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King*  
*of kings and Lord of lords,* <sup>16</sup> *who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light,*  
*whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.*

### **Set Your hope on God 17-19**

<sup>17</sup> *As for the rich in this present age,* These people have been entrusted by God with material  
 wealth through legitimate means. Paul does not follow the communist line of denying personal  
 property and wealth. Nor does he condemn people because they are rich.

*charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God,*  
*who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.* <sup>18</sup>

*They are to do good,* not an option but a command

*to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

*<sup>20</sup> O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," <sup>21</sup> for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.*

*Grace be with you.*

## **Conclusion**

We see that those in the wrong lane are in constant disagreement with the truth (6:3)

They are sowing seeds of discord (6:4-5)

And they have a heart of discontent (6:6-8)

they have a destructive desire for wealth (6:9-10)

This is the lane leads to death but thanks be to God that He has counted us worthy to race for His team. Therefore we must strive to

peruse Christian character, (6:11)

continue to fight the good fight, (6:12a)

take hold of eternal life (6:12b)

keep living a Godly life looking for Christ's return (6:13-16)

And set your hope on God not riches (6:17-19)

We must flee evil and pursue God