

Sermon study 1 Timothy 6:1-10 "Perspective"

Use this outline as a guide. You can talk about it a different way if you like but whatever you do make sure the depth of this study is depth of APPLICATION. Do not make it your goal to get sidetracked determining the meaning. The goal is to move forward from the message into actual real life and specific application. Be creative and follow up about application. Imagine a church where the people actually applied what they learned. Wow.

The problem this sermon addresses

Read Psalm 46.

Be still - literally means to cease striving- Notice that God makes His appeal for tranquility in the midst of trouble with a promise of a glorious future to come.

Is this enough for us to be tranquil in the midst of suffering or difficulty?

Do we actually believe this?

If so, then why do we make idols out of power and position and privilege?... Read this article and discuss:

<http://www.standfirminfaith.com/?/sf/page/29004>

Give examples personally how each of you are tempted to make an idol out of power, position, and privilege in your own life.

The question to ask yourself honestly is: If we make idols out of power, position and privilege in this life what will we do with these things in the life to come?

CPT:

Our attitude is the issue. Godliness is the goal. Contentment is the prize and destruction is the alternative.

Main Idea:

Christian, your predicament is not your real problem, your perspective is.

I. Attitude is the issue (1 Timothy 6:1-2a)

- A. Paul finishes up his list of household order in this book with the subject of slaves. Slaves are to serve their masters with all honor, and as brothers if they are believers. Attitude is the issue here.
 1. Read Colossians 3:18-4:1 and Ephesians 6:1-9. Why should you obey your boss?
 2. Read 1 Corinthians 7:17-24. The Gospel changes people not policy, lives not laws, hearts not hierarchies. Discuss.
 3. Read 1 Peter 2:13-25. How is our obedience gracious; how does our obedience illustrate grace? Notice that here Christ is the example of obedience.
 4. Read Philemon 8-22. How does Paul destroy slavery from the inside out?

II. Godliness is the Goal (1 Timothy 6:2b-5)

A. Paul reminds Timothy that the goal of our struggle is to be like God; to be godly. The false teachers saw godliness as a means to an end. Their real god was greed.

1. Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16, and 4:6-16. The goal of our struggle is godliness. What can we know for certain, based on 1 Timothy 6:2b-5, regarding people who hold a different goal?
2. Read Romans 1:18a. What is God mad at? What does it mean to be ungodly?
3. Read 2 Peter 1:3-4. Where does the power for godliness come from?
4. Read 2 Peter 2:1-3 and 10-22. Notice that the god of these false teachers is greed. This is the same goal as those who use religion for gain.

III. Contentment is the Prize (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

A. The reward for godliness is contentment. This is great gain. Real gain.

1. Read Philippians 4:11-13. When Paul says he can do all things through Christ what is he talking about? How does it relate to this passage?
 - a) Read: <http://dantidwell.wordpress.com/2011/10/10/godliness-with-contentment-is-great-gain/> and discuss.
2. Read Job 1:6-22. The essential question of this book is: is God enough? Is He sufficient for our contentment?
 - a) Read Job 42:1-6. How does Job, after seeing God's power firsthand, answer the question?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 and 5:10-17 note: (the term: 'Under the Sun' is a code word for 'without God').
 - a) Contentment comes through godliness.
 - (1) Do you need to have power to be content?
 - (2) Do you need to have position to be content?
 - (3) Do you need to have privilege to be content?

IV. Destruction is the Alternative (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

A. Paul contrasts the desire to be like God with the desire for material gain.

1. Read Joshua 7:20-21 and then Genesis 3:6.
 - a) What is the pattern of sin?
 - b) How is this the same trap we see around us every day?
 - c) Read Matthew 6:19-23. What is the desire of your heart, power, position or privilege or godliness?

V. Preparation

A. Read 1 John 3:1-3 and 1 Peter 1:13-16. The command is to be holy like He is holy.

Christian, your predicament is not your real problem, your perspective is. Here is a short fun article: <http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/more-than-enough>

Implication:

God is not as concerned to give you power and position and privilege in this life as He is to prepare you for real power and position and privilege in the next. Our attitude here and now is the issue. If you seek godliness, you will find contentment. If you seek anything else and you will find destruction.

Beware of the prosperity gospel. Ultimately we must realize that God is enough. He is always enough. Let this be written on our tombstones: "herein lies one for whom God was enough."

God is our feast. Share Him. You are a beggar who has found bread. Real bread. Fill these seats. Discuss specific and personal applications to this message.