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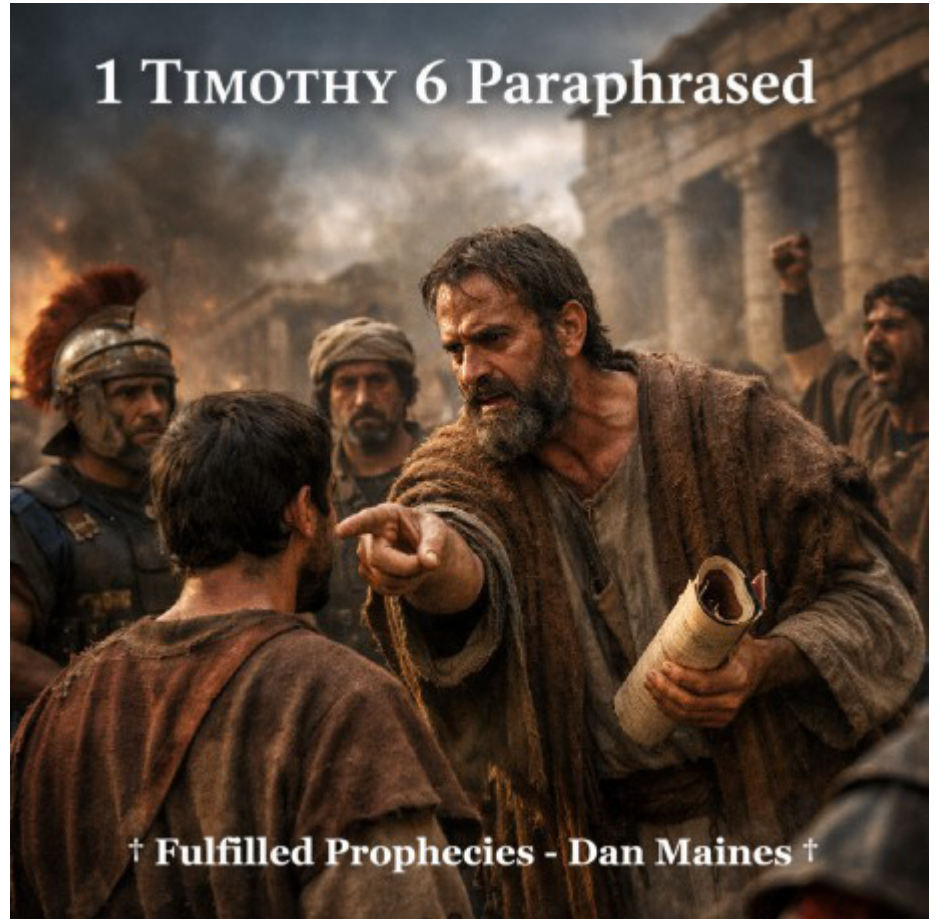
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1 Timothy 6 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

1 Timothy 6 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Paul closes this letter by warning about pride, false teaching, and the danger of loving money. The church was still young and believers were surrounded by teachers who were using religion for personal gain. Paul reminds Timothy that the faith isn't about status or wealth, it is about truth, contentment, and faithfulness to Christ (1 Timothy 6:3-10).

† These instructions mattered in the first century because many believers were servants or poor laborers in the Roman world. Paul teaches them how to live faithfully without bringing dishonor to the name of God (Titus 2:9-10).

† From the fulfilled perspective this instruction prepared the church during the years leading up to the end of the old covenant age. The believers needed stability, truth, and endurance while that covenant world was passing away (Hebrews 12:26-28).

1 Timothy 6:1

Those who are servants under authority should respect their masters so that the name of God and the teaching about Him won't be spoken against.

† Many early Christians were servants in Roman households. Paul teaches them to live in a way that protects the reputation of the gospel (Ephesians 6:5-8).

† Their conduct could either strengthen or damage how outsiders viewed the message of Christ (Matthew 5:16).

† Faithfulness in difficult circumstances showed the transforming power of the gospel.

1 Timothy 6:2

If their masters are believers they shouldn't treat them with less respect because they are brothers. Instead they should serve them even better because those who benefit from their work are believers and loved by God.

† The gospel created spiritual equality among believers even if social roles remained in place (Galatians 3:28).

† Christian service was to be done sincerely as service to the Lord (Colossians 3:23-24).

† The church was one family in Christ regardless of status (Ephesians 2:19).

1 Timothy 6:3

If anyone teaches something different and refuses to agree with the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and the instruction that produces godly living,

† Paul identifies false teachers as those who reject the words of Christ (Acts 20:29-30).

† True doctrine always produces a life that reflects God's character (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

† Teaching that doesn't lead to godliness reveals that something is wrong with the message.

1 Timothy 6:4

That person is proud and understands nothing. He is obsessed with arguments and debates about words which create jealousy, conflict, insults, and evil suspicions.

† Pride is one of the main causes of false teaching (Proverbs 13:10).

† Endless debates distract people from the real message of Christ (2 Timothy 2:23).

† When truth is replaced with argument, division always follows.

1 Timothy 6:5

These people constantly create conflict among those whose thinking is corrupt and who have lost the truth, believing that religion is a way to make money.

† Some teachers were turning faith into a way to gain wealth (2 Peter 2:1-3).

† Paul exposes this as corruption rather than ministry.

† The gospel calls for service and sacrifice, not personal profit.

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness combined with contentment is great wealth.

† Paul redefines wealth as a life satisfied with what God provides (Hebrews 13:5).

† Contentment frees believers from the endless chase for more.

† Jesus also warned against storing up treasure on earth (Matthew 6:19-20).

1 Timothy 6:7

We brought nothing into this world and we can't take anything out of it.

† Human life is temporary and possessions do not last (Job 1:21).

† This truth reminds believers not to anchor their identity in wealth.

† Everything we own is temporary stewardship.

1 Timothy 6:8

If we have food and clothing we'll be satisfied with that.

† Paul encourages gratitude rather than constant dissatisfaction.

† Jesus taught the same trust in God's daily provision (Matthew 6:31-33).

† Contentment guards the heart against greed.

1 Timothy 6:9

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and traps and into many foolish and harmful desires that drag people into ruin and destruction.

† The pursuit of wealth can easily become an idol (Mark 4:19).

† Many spiritual failures begin with the desire for financial power.

† Scripture repeatedly warns that riches can choke spiritual life.

1 Timothy 6:10

The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people chasing it have wandered away from the faith and brought great pain upon themselves.

† Money itself isn't evil but loving it leads to many sins.

† Jesus taught that no one can serve both God and money (Matthew 6:24).

† History shows many who abandoned faith because wealth became their master.

1 Timothy 6:11

But you, man of God, stay away from those things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

† Timothy is called to pursue character rather than wealth.

† Christian leadership is measured by spiritual maturity (1 Peter 5:2-3).

† These qualities reflect the character of Christ.

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life you were called to when you made your good confession in front of many witnesses.

† Faith requires perseverance and endurance.

† Timothy had publicly confessed Christ and was called to remain faithful (Romans 10:9-10).

† The Christian life is described as a fight because it requires discipline and courage.

1 Timothy 6:13

In the presence of God who gives life to all things and of Christ Jesus who made the good confession before Pontius Pilate, I command you

† Paul places Timothy under the authority of God and Christ.

† Jesus Himself stood before Pilate and boldly testified to the truth (John 18:37).

† Timothy is called to follow that same example of courage.

1 Timothy 6:14

Keep this command without stain or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† The early church lived with the expectation of Christ's coming judgment within that generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Timothy's responsibility was to remain faithful during that approaching transition.

† This expectation shaped how the apostles taught perseverance.

1 Timothy 6:15

Which God will reveal at the proper time, He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

† Paul praises God's authority over every earthly ruler.

† Even the Roman Empire was subject to the authority of God.

† Christ's reign would soon be openly vindicated.

1 Timothy 6:16

Who alone possesses immortality and lives in unapproachable light whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

† God alone possesses absolute and eternal life.

† Human power fades but God's authority is eternal (Psalm 90:2).

† Worship belongs to Him alone.

1 Timothy 6:17

Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant and not to trust in uncertain wealth but to trust in God who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

† Wealth is not condemned but pride and misplaced trust are.

† Believers must depend on God rather than financial security.

† True security is found in God's provision.

1 Timothy 6:18

Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share.

† Wealth should become a tool for serving others.

† Generosity reflects the heart of Christ.

† The early church practiced this through caring for the needy (Acts 2:44-45).

1 Timothy 6:19

In this way they store up treasure as a good foundation for the future so they can take hold of what is truly life.

† Jesus used similar language when speaking about heavenly treasure (Matthew 6:20).

† Faithfulness builds lasting reward beyond this life.

† Eternal values outweigh temporary wealth.

1 Timothy 6:20

Timothy guard what has been entrusted to you and stay away from empty talk and arguments that falsely claim to be knowledge.

† Timothy had been entrusted with the gospel message.

† False knowledge and speculation threatened the church (Colossians 2:8).

† Leaders must protect the truth.

1 Timothy 6:21

Some people claiming this knowledge have wandered away from the faith. Grace be with you.

† Intellectual pride can lead people away from Christ.

† True faith remains grounded in the apostolic message.

† Grace remains the foundation of the Christian life.

Historical References

† Ignatius of Antioch warned early believers to reject false teachers and remain faithful to apostolic teaching.

† Irenaeus wrote that some teachers were using religion for influence and wealth, echoing Paul's warnings in this chapter.

† Clement of Alexandria taught that wealth must be used to serve others rather than to dominate them.

How It Applies To Us Today

† The danger of false teaching still exists and believers must stay anchored in scripture.

† Contentment protects believers from the trap of greed and materialism.

† Faithfulness to Christ matters more than wealth, influence, or status.

† Churches today must guard the truth just as Timothy was instructed to do.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why did Paul warn about the love of money?

A: Because the pursuit of wealth can pull people away from faith and lead to many kinds of sin (1 Timothy 6:9-10; Matthew 6:24).

Q: Does the Bible teach that money itself is evil?

A: No, it warns that loving money leads to evil and spiritual damage (1 Timothy 6:10).

Q: What kind of life was Timothy supposed to pursue?

A: Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness (1 Timothy 6:11).

Q: Why was Timothy told to guard what was entrusted to him?

A: Because false teachers were already distorting the gospel (1 Timothy 6:20-21; Acts 20:29-30).

Q: What did Paul mean by fight the good fight of faith?

A: He was telling Timothy to stay faithful to Christ and continue defending the truth even when facing pressure, false teaching, and opposition (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7).

Q: What does it mean to take hold of eternal life?

A: It means living in the reality of the life Christ has given, holding firmly to the salvation and calling that was confessed publicly before others (1 Timothy 6:12; John 17:3).

Q: Why did Paul tell the rich not to trust in wealth?

A: Because riches are uncertain and temporary, but God is the true source of provision and security (1 Timothy 6:17; Proverbs 11:28).

Q: What was Timothy supposed to guard?

A: The gospel and the apostolic teaching entrusted to him, protecting it from false teachers and empty arguments (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:13-14).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 1 Timothy 6:1-21; Matthew 6:19-24; Matthew 16:27-28; Luke 12:15; Acts 2:44-45; Acts 20:29-30; Colossians 2:8; Galatians 3:28; Hebrews 12:26-28

† Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Ephesians; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Clement of Alexandria, Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?

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