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By Dan Maines

1 Timothy 6

1 Timothy 6:1-2

All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against. Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brothers or sisters, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles.

† Paul instructs slaves to honor their masters so that God's name is not dishonored.

† Believing masters are to be served faithfully, showing that Christian brotherhood does not abolish responsibility but transforms it.

† Ignatius (Letter to Polycarp 4) likewise urged believers to serve faithfully in every station.

1 Timothy 6:3-5

If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing, but he has a sick craving for controversial questions and disputes about words, from which come envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between people of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

† False teachers twist the gospel for selfish gain and thrive on disputes.

† Paul exposes their corruption, warning Timothy to avoid such controversies.

† Josephus (Antiquities 20.9.1) noted how corrupt teachers in Judea enriched themselves through deception, similar to Paul's warning.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it, if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

† True gain is godliness with contentment, not material wealth.

† The brevity of life demands focus on eternal values.

† Job 1:21 reminds us that we bring nothing into this world and take nothing out.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

† The pursuit of riches is spiritually dangerous, leading many to ruin.

† The love of money corrupts the heart and pulls people from the faith.

† Philo (On the Virtues 22) warned against greed as the destroyer of souls.

1 Timothy 6:11-12

But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

† Timothy is called to flee greed and pursue the virtues of Christ.

† Fighting the good fight of faith requires perseverance and courage.

1 Timothy 6:13-14

I direct you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep the commandment without fault or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† Timothy's charge is solemn, rooted in Christ's example before Pilate.

† The "appearing" refers to Christ's AD 70 vindication and kingdom revelation, now fulfilled.

1 Timothy 6:15-16

Which He will bring about at the proper time, He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

† Paul's doxology exalts God's sovereignty and eternal dominion.

† The early church consistently ended major sections with worship and praise.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

† Wealth is not condemned but must be stewarded for good works.

† True riches are generosity, service, and eternal treasure.

† Clement of Alexandria (Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved? 12) taught that wealth is to be used for blessing others, echoing Paul.

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Timothy, protect what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly, empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"—which some have professed and thereby have gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

† Paul's final exhortation calls Timothy to guard the gospel deposit.

† False "knowledge" (gnosis) already threatened the church.

† True knowledge is found in Christ, not in worldly speculation.

How it applies to us today

† 1 Timothy 6 reminds us that true wealth is godliness with contentment.

† The love of money remains a great danger, pulling hearts from Christ.

† Believers are called to flee greed, pursue righteousness, and fight the good fight of faith.

† Leadership must guard the gospel deposit against false teaching, keeping Christ at the center.

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

Source Index

† Ignatius, Letter to Polycarp 4 - serving faithfully in every station

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.9.1 - corrupt teachers enriching themselves

† Job 1:21 - nothing brought into the world, nothing taken out

† Philo, On the Virtues 22 - greed as destroyer of souls

† Clement of Alexandria, Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved? 12 - wealth used for good works

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