

Growing Strong in Faith | Part 10

Lesson 7

1 Timothy 6:3-21

August 27, 2023

The Bible and Money

INTRODUCTION

“Whoever loves money never has enough...” (Ecclesiastes 5:10). To suppress this love, Jesus advises, “Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth . . . But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...” (Matthew 6:19-20).

Paul, in his first letter to Timothy, warns of the dangers in loving money and insists upon alternatives to replace this addiction, including in 1 Timothy 6:19 the proper placement of treasures as first taught by Jesus in Matthew 6:20.

Later, in Matthew 22:21, Jesus repeats this instruction more specifically when challenged by the Pharisees. After noting Tiberius’ *image* on a denarius coin, he declares, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

Our Heavenly Father has no desire for denarii. He expects and deserves something better, something eternal. “What is God’s” are the multitudes of *images which He made in His likeness* and put upon this earth (Genesis 1:26) who joyfully fulfill His purpose.

Memory verse: “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.”—1 Timothy 6:6-7

Pray, and read 1 Timothy 6:3-21. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. What are the characteristics of a teacher who does not instill sound doctrine? (1 Timothy 6:3-5)
2. How does the desire for wealth harm an individual? (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
3. How should a Christian “fight the good fight of faith”? (1 Timothy 6:11-12)
4. What is the command that should be assigned the wealthy? (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
5. In what way should Timothy “guard” what has been entrusted to his care? (1 Timothy 6:20)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. The love of money, or of things money can buy, causes some people to be “pierced...with many griefs” (1 Timothy 6:10). What actions or attitudes should a Christian employ to effectively disregard love of money? (Matthew 6:33; Acts 20:33-35; 1 Timothy 6:11, 17-19; Hebrews 13:1)

2. What was the tone or characteristic of Jesus’ “confession” to Pontius Pilate (1 Timothy 6:13) that pervaded Timothy’s confession (6:12)? (Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:1-2; 2 Timothy 1:7-8)

3. Why does God live in “unapproachable light” as cited in 1 Timothy 6:16? (Exodus 15:11; 1 Samuel 2:2; Isaiah 6:3, 40:18)

4. When Paul cautions Timothy to “guard what has been entrusted to your care” (1 Timothy 6:20), he echoes the advice in 2 Timothy 1:13-14. What does this mean? (Deuteronomy 4:2; Job 1:8b; Psalm 141:3; Proverbs 4:26, 7:2)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. It is the church’s responsibility to proclaim and protect the written Word of God. As individuals, how do we defend the authenticity, inspiration, authority, and inerrancy of scripture when in the presence of those who chant false doctrine, argue the side of science, or ridicule our belief?

