

## Teacher Class Plan

### I Timothy: Lesson #59 – The Great Gain of Godliness For Wednesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>

Read I Tim. 6:3-21 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

**Memory Verse:** I Tim. 6:6 “Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”

Today is our last lesson from 1 Timothy. Let’s look back at our chart and remember some of the things we’ve been studying.

#### **Don’t Follow Teaching That Christ Didn’t Reveal**

- One of the things that Paul was very concerned about was doctrines being taught in the church that had not been revealed through Christ.
- When Jesus was still on the earth, He told the apostles that He would send them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would remind the apostles of everything Jesus said, and then would take Jesus’ words from heaven and give it to them. Everything the apostles taught came from Jesus through the Holy Spirit.
- When people began to teach things that Jesus did not reveal, then they weren’t listening to Him as their king. That kind of person is full of too much pride. They trust their ways and man’s ways more than the Lord’s ways. Teaching false ideas is only going to divide Christians and lead to problems.
- As members of the church of Christ it is a very serious responsibility to only follow what Christ revealed. We try our best to follow the Bible in everything.
- Paul told Timothy to guard the truth, and to turn away from any kind of teaching that claimed to be knowledge, but wasn’t what the Lord taught us.

#### **Worshipping God is a Way to Gain Something Great**

- Some people actually think that religion is a way to make money. They preach in the name of Jesus hoping that they can be paid lots of money. That’s a terrible reason to preach the gospel.
- Serving Christ is a way to gain something great, but the gain isn’t money. We gain wonderful things when we worship the Lord. We gain better lives and better families, but most of all, we gain an eternity in heaven.
- But one thing we must do as we serve the Lord is be content. Being content is thinking and saying, “I have enough of life’s blessings, and I’m thankful to God for them. Most important of all, I have God, and He means more to me than anything else.” *Hold up the memory verse card.* Our **memory verse** says, “Now godliness with contentment is great gain.” I Tim. 6:6. *Work on this verse with the class. Keep encouraging them to learn it at home.*
- When you can serve the Lord and can be happy and thankful for what you have, you will really be one of the richest people on earth, not in money, but in what really counts.

## **Want to Get Rich?**

- Getting rich is something almost every person wishes they could be. They imagine that they could buy anything they like, live in a fancy house, and have people that could do everything for them. But God says that isn't a very good thing to hope for. Riches can hurt us.
  - It is not a sin to have money. It is not a sin to want to make money. But it is a sin to love money. We are to love God and love people. We should love our families and love the people at church. We can even try to show love to people that aren't nice to us. But we should never love money. We shouldn't be in love with the idea of making a lot of money.
  - People who make it their life's goal to be rich will end up hurting themselves. That isn't a good goal at all. When you want to be rich, you start getting unhappy with what you have right now. Then you may start to be tempted to do things to get rich that you shouldn't do:
    - ⇒ Some people do dishonest things to get money – they cheat and steal.
    - ⇒ Some people earn money honestly, but neglect God to get that money. They don't go to church like they should, they don't spend the time they should with their families and they let too many other things get in the way.
    - ⇒ And some people who get money misuse it. They become selfish and don't help others or give to God.
- Riches can also sometimes bring more problems to our lives. We may get consumed with worry over trying to keep them.
- Rather than running after money, Christians should run after righteousness, reverence for God, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

## **If You Are Ever Blessed With Wealth**

- If you are ever blessed with wealth, what attitude should you have? Paul says we should not let riches make us think we are more important than other people. He also says we should NOT trust in riches because it's never certain whether we will be able to keep them. Riches have a way of slipping away from us. Trust in God instead.
- Paul also taught that those who have wealth should use it to do good for other people, and be willing to give and share. That would be the best investment they could make.

**Bible Quiz:** Please review the Bible quiz questions with your class. Try to make sure that all know the answers. If you have time you can always review last time's Bible Quiz and memory verse. It would also be good to remind them to have their quiz filled out and brought to class.

## **Simplified Explanation of the Text**

### **Some Teach Different From What Christ Revealed**

3-4 If someone teaches doctrines different from what have been revealed, and does not come with the healthy words of our Lord Jesus Christ and teaching that fits a true reverence for God, then that person is puffed up with pride. They really don't know

anything at all, but just have an unhealthy interest in questioning, arguing and quarreling about teachings.

That will only turn into envy, quarrels, talking bad about others, and having evil suspicions about each other.

5 Such people make worthless arguments because their minds are corrupt and robbed of the truth. They assume that they can use people's worship and dedication to God as a means to gain money.

### **Be Content, Be Thankful You Have Enough**

6 Well, in once sense, it is true that worshipping God reverently is a way to gain something great, if you can add to your life an attitude that says, "I'm content; I have enough, and I'm thankful to God for it. I even more thankful to have God."

7 When you think about life, you realize that when you were born, you didn't bring anything into this world. And when you die, its clear that you won't be able to take anything out of this world.

8 So while we're here on earth, if we have enough food to eat and something to cover us, we can be content knowing we have enough.

### **Getting Rich is a Bad Goal**

9 But those who make it their goal to become rich will fall into a temptation and a trap. They'll fall into so many desires that not only won't make any sense, but will also hurt them, ultimately drowning them in destruction and ruin.

10 For loving money is a root that will send up a lot of sprigs of evil. Some of those who were trying to reach that goal have gone away from the faith and have tortured themselves with many sad things.

11 But you, O man of God, must run away and escape from these things. Instead, pursue righteousness, reverence for God, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

### **Be Prepared For the Fight**

12 You are in the stadium for a contest, so be prepared to fight all opponents so that you can take hold of eternal life. This is what you've been called to do. This is the reason you confessed the good confession before many witnesses.

13-16 In the sight of God who gives life to all, and in the sight of Christ Jesus, who stood before Pontius Pilate and witnessed the good confession, I command you, to keep what I'm ordering you to do. Do these things without any spot and without doing anything that could be condemned, until our Lord Jesus Christ appears.

In His own time He will be shown to be the blessed and only Great Authority, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. He alone dwells in light that no one can approach, which no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and power eternally. Amen.

### **Commands For the Rich**

17 Command those who are rich as far as this world is concerned not to think of themselves as being above others or more important than them. Command them not to trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God who offers us all things richly to be enjoyed.

18-19 People think of saving for the future. Well command the rich to do good so that they will be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, and that will store up for themselves a wonderful foundation for what will come when they take possession of eternal life.

**Hold On to the Truth**

20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Turn away from any kind of useless talking that doesn't belong among the things of God. Avoid those who oppose the truth in favor of what they would falsely call "knowledge."

21 Some who claim to be able to furnish such "knowledge" have gotten off target as far as the faith is concerned. Grace be with you. Amen.