



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

1 TIMOTHY WEEK 5

OPENING & PRAYER:

Paul opens 1 Timothy 6 by taking bond servants under the yoke and aiming straight at the heart. The bond-servant language is not the same thing as American slavery, but in that culture often worked like debt service or employee and employer. Paul tells servants to honor their masters, not because every boss is right, but because the name of God and the doctrine cannot be blasphemed through sloppy, bitter, mouthy conduct. The workplace becomes kingdom ground, because how a Christian works reflects the God being served.

"Father, please continue to bless our study as we jump into your Word. Guide our study time and lead us as we continue in 1 Timothy. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Let as many bondservants (Slaves-Employee) as are under the yoke (Authority) count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. **1 Timothy 6:1**

And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things. **1 Timothy 6:2**

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, ("reviling" means "speech injurious to another's good name" **1 Timothy 6:3-4**

useless wranglings (KJV- Perverse Disputing) of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. **1 Timothy 6:5-7**

And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. **1 Timothy 6:8**

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money (Power of Purchase or Power of Influence) is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. **1 Timothy 6:9-10**

But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold (Seize The Opportunity) on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **1 Timothy 6:11-12**

I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment (Flee these things - Verse 11) without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, **1 Timothy 6:13-14**

which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power.

Amen. **1 Timothy 6:15-16**

in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. **1 Timothy 6:17**

Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life. **1 Timothy 6:17-19** (The Message Bible)

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. **1 Timothy 6:18-19**

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. **2 Timothy 1:1-2**

I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine (Authentic) faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. **2 Timothy 1:3-5**

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear (cowardice and timidity), but of power and of love and of a sound Mind. **2 Timothy 1:6-7**

There is no love in fear and no fear in love. They are opposite emotions and mutually exclusive (1 John 4:18). Fear also causes us to think emotionally and not logically. Fear is deadly and something that we should not tolerate in our lives. Fear activates the power of the devil similarly to the way faith releases the power of God. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, **2 Timothy 1:8**

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel, **2 Timothy 1:9-10**

to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. **2 Timothy 1:11-12**

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. **2 Timothy 1:13-14**

This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain; **2 Timothy 1:15-16**

but when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me. The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day—and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus. **2 Timothy 1:17-18**

GO DEEPER:

Paul does not chase every political or social fight. His calling stays on establishing churches, growing people in faith, appointing leaders, and moving on. His silence on certain injustices does not mean support, it means his assignment stayed focused. Paul warns Timothy that people who refuse wholesome words end up proud, obsessed with disputes, reviling, useless wranglings, and drama. The servant of God is responsible for preaching the word, not convincing the world.

The text then turns hard toward contentment. Godliness with contentment is great gain, not because God wants His people barely scraping by, but because contentment is an issue of the heart. Food and clothing do not set a poverty doctrine, they expose the deeper truth that life cannot be held together by wanting more. Contentment can live with a lot or a little, because money cannot buy that kind of settled heart.

Paul contrasts contentment with the desire to be rich. Money itself is neutral, but the love of money becomes a trap, a snare, and a drowning. Like water, money is needed in the right proportion, but it destroys when it becomes the atmosphere a person tries to breathe. Money is a tool, a slave, never a master. When money starts driving the decisions, idol worship has already started talking.

Paul commands the man of God to flee those traps and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. The rich are not rebuked for having wealth, but commanded not to be haughty, not to trust uncertain riches, and to be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share. Treasure cannot be taken out of this world, but it can be sent ahead by investing into people.

Second Timothy begins with Paul in the lowest prison conditions, more emotional now than intellectual. Paul remembers Timothy's tears, his genuine faith, and the faith that first lived in Lois and Eunice. Paul tells Timothy to stir up the gift like coals in a fire, because God has not given a spirit of fear, but power, love, and a sound mind. Christ has abolished death, the Holy Spirit keeps what has been committed, and Timothy must not be ashamed of chains when God is still working in the low place.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Honor protects God's name. Work is never just work when God's name is attached to the worker. Paul's instruction does not pretend every authority is easy to honor, but it makes honor part of gospel witness. A Christian's conduct under authority can either make doctrine beautiful or give people a reason to blaspheme what is holy. **[03:45]**

2. Contentment is heart-level wealth. Contentment is not the same thing as having little, and it is not threatened by having much. The text aims deeper than income level and exposes the restless appetite that always needs one more thing to feel settled. A soul that is content has received something money cannot manufacture and circumstances cannot fully explain. **[12:14]**

3. Money must stay a tool. Money becomes dangerous when it stops serving and starts leading. Paul's warning is not against cash, possessions, or increase, but against the love of money that makes every decision bow to gain. When money becomes master, sorrow starts piercing the person who thought wealth would protect him. **[22:32]**

4. Fear fights the gift. The gift of God must be stirred like coals, especially when pressure, shame, and rejection try to smother it. Fear makes a person think emotionally instead of faithfully, but power, love, and a sound mind keep the calling steady. Paul's chains do not cancel the gospel, and Timothy's courage must not depend on public approval. **[36:12]**

5. Low places require discernment. Paul's prison made many people turn away, but chains did not mean God was finished. A low season can hide a deep work of God, and rejecting someone only because the moment looks weak can miss the Lord's hand entirely. God can still move a person from pit to palace in one day. **[41:54]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. The sermon emphasized that "honor protects God's name" in the workplace. What specific behaviors were mentioned as ways to reflect Christ in secular jobs? **[03:45]**
2. How does fear (**2 Timothy 1:7**) hinder the "stirring up" of spiritual gifts, and why might Paul emphasize power, love, and self-control as antidotes?
3. In your current job or responsibilities, what is one practical way to honor authority this week, even if you disagree with decisions? How could this reflect Christ?
4. Reflect on a recent financial decision. Was money a tool (serving a purpose) or a master (driving the decision)? What adjustments might help align your view of money with Paul's teaching? **[22:32]**
5. What step could you take this month to "stir up" a spiritual gift or calling you've neglected? How might fear be holding you back, and what would it look like to act in power, love, or self-control instead? **[36:12]**

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for providing opportunities for us to grow. Help us see the areas we can grow this week and learn to put your purpose for us over everything else. We thank you for Your grace and love. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."