

# Gleanings of Grace

## 1 Timothy 6

### Lesson 15

Timothy was assigned to be the pastor of the church in Ephesus during Paul's fourth missionary journey, after Paul's first Roman imprisonment. In this letter, Paul instructs Timothy to care for the church, and reminds him of the authority and power of the gospel to transform lives. May you be encouraged to seek and live in the transforming power of the gospel.

#### OBSERVATION: Read 1 Timothy 6

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus* and *God*, the Father  
  
Key Words: *Jesus*, *God*, *good/godliness*, and *confessed/confession*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used five times in 1 Timothy 6. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

#### Background:

1. Acts 16:1-3 provides the account of Paul meeting Timothy. What can we learn from these verses?

2. How is Timothy described in:

1 Corinthians 4:17

1 Thessalonians 3:2

3. What did Paul write to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:18?

4. Timothy was a young man committed to a great responsibility. If you were placing people you felt responsible for under the spiritual care of another, what is some advice that you would give them?

### **Read 1 Timothy 6:1-2 – Honor Masters**

1. 1 Timothy 6 continues Paul's instructions to Timothy regarding honoring others. Summarize his words regarding:

*widows* (1 Timothy 5:3-16):

Church *Elders* (1 Timothy 5:17-22):

*Masters* (1 Timothy 6:1,2):

a. Describe your understanding of why God teaches us how to *honor* others.

### **Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10 – Be Content**

1. Record the last sentence of 1 Timothy 6:2.

a. What is the difference between *teaching* and exhorting?

2. How does Paul describe the teaching and exhortation? verse 3
3. Paul uses some strong words to describe those who *teach otherwise*. Using verses 4, 5, describe their attitude and actions.
  - a. What do these men *suppose*?
    - 1.) What are some examples of this kind of thinking?
4. What did Paul tell Timothy to do (end of verse 5)?
  - a. Why is it a good thing to *withdraw* from someone who claims to be a Christian but behaves like this?
5. Paul countered his statement about false *godliness* in verse 5 with a truth about *godliness* in verse 6. What does true *godliness* *gain*?
  - a. What *gain* have you found from walking in obedience to God's truths?
6. Reflect upon Paul's statement in 1 Timothy 6:7. What are your thoughts?
  - a. What do the following verses add to your understanding?

Job 1:21

Luke 12:20,21
7. With what are we to be *content*?

- a. What did Jesus say about these things? Hebrews 13:5
  - b. Using your own words, define *contentment*.
8. In contrast to *godliness with contentment*, describe *those who desire to be rich*. 1 Timothy 6:9,10
- a. How do selfish desires, including the *love of money* lead to these kinds of *destruction*?
9. What advice would you give to a believer who was convicted about the priorities they give to their personal possessions?

### **Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16 - A Good Confession**

1. Paul not only commanded Timothy to *flee* (run from) the pursuit of ungodly *gain*, what did he tell Timothy to *pursue* (run towards)? verse 11
  - a. Paul gave a similar instruction to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:22. What is the benefit of pursuing godly characteristics with *those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart*?
2. *Fight the good fight* (1 Timothy 6:11). What was Paul able to declare at the end of His life? 2 Timothy 4:7
  - a. In what ways have you experienced the Christian life to be a *fight*?
3. Paul called Timothy to remember his *confession*, using Jesus' *confession before Pilate* as an example. What can we learn about His *confession* in:
 

Matthew 27:11

Matthew 27:14

John 19:11

4. We are not only to *keep these commandments*, what words did Paul use to describe how we are to *keep* them? 1 Timothy 6:14
  - a. 2 Peter 3:14 gives a similar command. What do you think God is calling us to do?
5. We are to *fight the good fight* until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time (1 Timothy 6:14,15). List the phrases Paul used to describe Jesus in verses 15,16.
  - a. How did writing these incredible attributes of our Savior invoke in you a desire to *fight the good fight* and live a life that *confesses* Him?

### **Read 1 Timothy 6:17-21 - Trust**

1. Paul turns back to the subject of seeking *riches*. What warning does he give?
  - a. Paul closes verse 17 stating that God *gives us richly all things to enjoy*. How can we *enjoy riches* and yet not fall prey to the warnings?
2. Using verse 18, 19, list what those who are *rich* are to do?
  - a. Describe what Paul might call someone who is *rich*?
3. The phrase *lay hold on eternal life* is used in both 1 Timothy 6:12 and 19. It speaks of *laying hold* of that which one who has *eternal life* can live. In what ways are these actions a good *confession* of what Jesus has done in your life?

4. 1 Timothy 6:20 begins with the imploring words, *O Timothy*. What seven words follow?

a. Timothy was a pastor. The people of his congregation were *committed to his trust*. What do you think he was responsible to do?

b. What was he supposed to *avoid*?

Define:

*profane babblings*

*idle babblings*

*contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge.*

5. Meditate on the final words of this letter. What can happen when we profess other than the things that declare a true confession of the gospel?

a. Using synonyms, define the word *strayed*.

1.) Describe a life that has *strayed from the faith*.

### **REVIEW: Read 1 Timothy 6**

1. In what ways have you seen the importance of a life that truly reflects the gospel?

2. Share one thing that you have gleaned from this study of 1 Timothy 6.

*having faith and a good conscience,  
which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,  
- 1 Timothy 1:19*

# Observation Worksheet

## 1 Timothy 6

Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup> useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. <sup>6</sup> Now godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup> And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money 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. <sup>11</sup> But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, <sup>15</sup> which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. <sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich 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. <sup>18</sup> Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, <sup>19</sup> storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. <sup>20</sup> O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge-- <sup>21</sup> by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.