



leadership manual

1 Timothy



Sermon Series Notes

“Investment Advice” (I Timothy 6:11-21)

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Intro: Read v.11a; Paul has just severely criticized those who follow false teaching that does not agree with the “sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ” (read vv.3-5). The context of these ungodly character traits is money, and what money can buy (read vv.6-10). In short, the love of money reveals a mindset that is earthly, not heavenly. Jesus said that no one can serve two masters, God and money. And the battle between those two masters is very real. In essence, it is the battle between an earthly mindset, and a heavenly mindset.

I. A VERY REAL BATTLE (vv.11-12)

- Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called. Eternal life is the quality of life in the world to come, and is in stark contrast to the quality of life in this present world. This present world highly values gold, while God uses it for construction. The streets of the heavenly Jerusalem are pure gold (Rev.21:21b). All the buildings are pure gold (Rev.21:18b). This world greatly values pearls. God makes gates out of them! (Rev.21:21a). The wall around the heavenly Jerusalem is 200 feet thick, and is made of jasper. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone.
- The word for “take hold of” is a word that means “voluntary athletic agony.” I am engaged in a “fight” where I have to flee the pull of this present world, and pursue the values of eternal life.
- Note: Timothy made a confession publically when he received Jesus Christ as Savior, and when he made that confession, the battle was on!
- Every born again believer enters into this battle. And we want to be able at the end of this life to say what the apostle said at the end of his (see I Tim.4:6-7).
- See I Tim.6:9-10; the love money motivated Judas to not only steal from Jesus’ ministry account, but in the end to betray Jesus (for thirty pieces of silver); the love of money destroyed Achan and his whole family; the love of money caused Ananias and Sapphira to forfeit their lives.
- Eccl.5:10

II. KINGDOM MENTALITY (vv.13-16)

- What was the good confession that Jesus made while testifying before Pontius Pilate? See John 18:36; Acts 1:3; I think about heaven every day of my life. Have you ever stopped during the day to meditate on the fact that there really is another world way up above. Abraham is there, as is Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Miriam and Aaron, Joshua, Rahab and her whole family, David, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, all the prophets, Samson, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, the apostles, the thief on the cross, the demoniac, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the woman who lived a sinful life who anointed Jesus at the home of the Pharisee, my mother, my grandmother, the child that my wife miscarried. Listen to me! Jesus is really a king, and he rules over a real kingdom. It's a real place. And one day the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever (Rev.11:15).
- Jesus never owned a home ("Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."). He never owned a car (donkey). His ministry treasurer (Judas) regularly stole from his account. And yet Heb.1:9, quoting from Ps.45:7, says that Jesus was anointed with the oil of joy.
- In Jesus temptation in the wilderness, Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of this world, and Jesus resisted that temptation. And not simply because he knew they would be his again one day anyway, but because the eternal life that flowed through him had a different value system (see Luke 16:13-15; 12:13-21, 22-34).

III. IMPORTANT CLOSING COMMANDS (vv.17-19)

A. Don't Be Arrogant (Deut.8:10-18a)

- a. "Authentic conversion to Christ so changes people's lives that bad habits fall away, and they become better workers and managers as they live out the Scriptures, resulting in economic prosperity. But tragically, in many cases the new prosperity and material wealth devour the same Christianity that gave them birth – especially in the second or third generations" (Hughes, p.159). The Puritan Cotton Mather, alarmed by the trend toward materialism in New England during his time, put it this way, "Religion begat prosperity, and the daughter devoured the mother." Note: The same who gave us the wealth can also take it away.
- b. Wealth can delude people into imagining they are of superior value. Look at how this world treats the prominent, the wealthy, the famous in comparison to those who are not.

B. Don't Put Your Hope In Wealth (Prov.18:11; 23:4-5; Eccl.5:15)

C. Invest Wisely

- a. Do good, be rich in good deeds.
- b. Be generous and willing to share.

IV. FINAL THOUGHTS

A. Practical Thoughts Regarding Eternal Investments

1. The investment is for YOU

- Matt.6:19-21
- Store up **for yourselves**; not for God (He doesn't need anything!).
- Luke 18:22 (**You** will have treasure...)

2. All currency invested goes through a heavenly currency exchange.

- Widow who gave her last mite.
- II Cor.8: 12 For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

3. Eternal investments are NEVER risky

- No moth and rust corruption, no need for Wells Fargo (bullet proof trucks, guards with guns), security systems, bank vaults, cameras, codes, etc.
- No up and down like Wall Street; no 9/11's

B. Biblical Guidelines For Eternal Investments

1. Give God The Firstfruits Of All Your Increase

- Prov.3: 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops (increase).
- I believe the firstfruit of our income is the tithe (gross, not net); Abraham and Melchizedek (Gen.14; Heb.7), Jacob (Gen.28:22b).
- Giving under the Law was through the temple, administered by the priests. NT giving is through the church, administered by the church leaders God has appointed. Your offering to the Lord through this local fellowship means that you "own stock" in this "company." Every person that gives their life to Christ through this ministry, every missionary that is sent out, every poor

person helped, good deed done...you get some of the “credit” (reward), because you have invested in this ministry.

- Note: I believe it is wrong to take your tithe and support an individual ministry of the church, or outside the church. Years ago we had a staff member that heard me say this, and they inquired about it. They had been taking their tithe and supporting missionaries with it. What if all of us did that? How would the local church support itself?

2. Pray About The “Leftover”

- Corporate Alms (Special Needs)

- Good Samaritan Giving (Poor and needy; Prov.19: 17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

- Missionaries (Phil.4:17)

- Missions, Ministry Projects (Campus Crusade, GFA, Pioneers, etc. etc.)

CONCLUSION

- You can only invest in this life. Do your givin’ while you’re livin’ then you’re knowin’ where it’s goin’.
- Follow the trail of your time, energy, affections, and money, and there you find a throne. And whatever, or whoever is on that throne is the object of your worship.
- Flash paper – Represents \$ invested only in the things of this life.