

Approximately 35 minutes Expository



1 Timothy 6 - “Fight the Good Fight of Faith”



Opening Prayer:

**Father God,
We come before You in the mighty name
of Jesus. Thank You for Your living
Word. Thank You that your Word speaks
to us today just as powerfully as You did
two thousand years ago. Lord, open our
hearts. Remove distraction. Give us ears
to hear what the Spirit says to the
church. Strengthen us to stand firm in
truth, to love You more than this world,
and to fight the good fight of faith. We
ask that you Jesus would be glorified in
this study. In Your precious name,
Amen.**

Historical Setting:

The Apostle Paul is near the end of his life. He has poured himself out for the gospel. He has planted churches, suffered beatings, imprisonments, rejection, and hardship. And now he writes to his spiritual son, Timothy.

Timothy is pastoring in Ephesus - a wealthy, influential Roman city. Ephesus was filled with commerce, trade, idol worship, and false teaching. The Temple of Artemis dominated the culture. Money flowed through that city. Religion was commercialized. Teachers often used spirituality for profit.

Sound familiar?

Paul writes this letter to strengthen Timothy in leadership, to guard the church from

false teachers, and to remind believers what truly matters.

Chapter 6 is Paul's final charge. It is direct. It is powerful. It is urgent.

1. Serving Christ in Every Position:



(NIV)

1 Timothy 6:1-2 *All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. ² Those who have believing masters should not show them disrespect just because they are fellow believers. Instead, they should serve them even better because their masters are dear to them as fellow believers and are devoted to the welfare of their slaves.*

These are the things you are to teach and insist on.¹

Paul begins by addressing slaves in verse 1:

  (NIV) **“All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God’s name and our teaching may not be slandered.”** (v.1)

Slavery in the Roman world was different from modern race-based slavery. Many slaves were educated professionals teachers, doctors, managers. But they were still under authority.

Paul’s message is very practical: wherever God has placed you, live in a way that honors Jesus Christ.

¹ [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Ti 6:1–2.

If you are an employee, do your work faithfully, honestly, and with a good attitude, as though you are serving the Lord Himself.

If you are under someone's authority, show proper respect, even when it is not always easy.

If you are in leadership, lead with honesty, humility, fairness, and integrity.

  Why does this matter?

Because our conduct affects how others view the **name of God and the message of Christ**. Paul says this should be done so that “God’s name and our teaching may not be slandered.”

Your workplace, your home, and your daily responsibilities are **all mission fields**.

People are watching how you speak, how you work, how you handle pressure, and how you treat others. A Christlike attitude can point people toward Jesus, but a poor

attitude can give people the wrong picture of Him.

👉 So wherever you are today, serve Christ well there. Let your attitude, your work ethic, and your character make Jesus look glorious.

2. False Teachers and Greed



(NIV)

1 Timothy 6:3-5

³ If anyone

teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴ they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵ and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who

think that godliness is a means to financial gain.²

Paul warns:

  (NIV) **“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ... they are conceited and understand nothing.”** (v. 3-4)

Notice what Paul is teaching Timothy here: **doctrine matters. Truth matters. What we believe shapes how we live, how we speak, how we serve, and how we represent Jesus Christ.**

Not every person who uses spiritual words is speaking the truth of God. Not every teacher who sounds religious is faithful to Christ. Some voices may mention God, quote Scripture, or sound convincing, but if their message does not agree with the

² [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Ti 6:3–5.

sound instruction of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul says they are not teaching truth.

That is why believers must have discernment. We do not judge a message by personality, popularity, emotion, or how successful someone appears to be. We test every teaching by the Word of God.

In Ephesus, false teachers were causing confusion in the church. Their hearts were not humble before God. Paul says they were filled with pride, arguments, envy, strife, evil suspicions, and constant friction. Instead of building up the body of Christ, they were dividing it. Instead of pointing people to Jesus, they were using religion for personal gain.

And one of the biggest problems was greed. These false teachers saw godliness as a way to make money. They treated ministry like a business opportunity instead of a holy calling. That is dangerous

because when money becomes the motive, truth often gets pushed aside.

Paul is warning Timothy ... and he is warning us today ... to stay anchored in sound doctrine. The gospel is not something to twist for profit, popularity, or personal advantage. The truth of Jesus Christ must be guarded, taught clearly, and lived faithfully.



(NIV)

“Who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.” (v.5)

That is dangerous.

When ministry becomes a money machine, something has gone wrong.

God blesses. God provides. But the gospel is not for sale.

Paul exposes the heart issue: greed disguised as spirituality.

3. The Secret of Contentment

  (NIV) **1 Timothy 6:6-8** ⁶ ***But godliness with contentment is great gain.*** ⁷ ***For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.*** ⁸ ***But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*** ³

Here is one of the greatest verses in Scripture:

  (NIV) **“But godliness with contentment is great gain.”** (v.6)

- Not godliness with riches.
- Not godliness with fame.
- 👉 Godliness with contentment.

   **Contentment means having a settled heart because Christ is enough.**

It does not mean we never have needs, goals, or responsibilities. It means our

³ [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Ti 6:6–8.

peace is not controlled by what we own, what we lack, or what others have. True contentment comes when we trust that Jesus is our provider, our strength, our security, and our greatest treasure.

So Paul is saying that when a believer has godliness and contentment, they are already rich in what matters most. They may not have everything the world says they need, but they have Christ ... and in Him, they have enough.

Paul continues:

  (NIV) **“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.”** (v.7)

You came in with nothing.
You leave with nothing.

 Everything in between is temporary.



(NIV)

“But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.” (v.8)

This kind of contentment goes against the message of our culture. The world constantly tells us that we need more in order to be happy.

We are told we need a bigger house, a newer truck, better clothes, more money, more recognition, and a higher position in life. The world says, “You will be satisfied when you finally get more.”

But Paul teaches something very different. True contentment is not found in having more things. True contentment is found in having **a heart that is satisfied in Christ.**

Contentment brings freedom because it breaks the power of comparison, jealousy, and always wanting what someone else has. When Jesus becomes enough, the things of this world no longer control us the same way.

We can still work hard. We can still be thankful for blessings. But our joy is no longer tied to possessions, status, or success.

   Our peace is anchored in Jesus Christ.

4. The Danger of Loving Money

1 Timothy 6:9-10 ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. ⁴

⁴ [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Ti 6:9–10.

This is one of the most misquoted verses in the Bible:

  (NIV) **“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.”** (v.10)

Paul is not saying that money itself is evil. Money can be used for good. It can provide for a family, help those in need, support ministry, bless others, and meet daily responsibilities.

The danger is not **having** money. The danger is **loving** money.

Money is a tool, but when money becomes the desire of the heart, it can quickly become an idol. An idol is anything we trust, chase, or love more than God. When a person begins to live for money, depend on money, and measure life by money, money has moved from being a servant to becoming a master.

That is why Paul gives such a strong warning. He says that some people, because they were eager for money,



(NIV)

“have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” (v.10)

In other words, their craving for more led them away from God and brought pain into their own lives.

That phrase gives the picture of self-inflicted wounds. Greed does not just hurt others; it also damages the person who is controlled by it. When money becomes your master, it can wound your soul, damage your peace, and pull your heart away from Christ.

- How many families have been broken over money?
- How many marriages have suffered because of greed, debt, selfishness, or financial pressure?

- How many churches have been divided when money became more important than truth, love, and unity?
- How many people today are living under constant anxiety because they are comparing their life to someone else's?

Jesus made it very clear in



(NIV)

Matthew chapter 6 verse 24:
“...You cannot serve both God and money.”

The issue is not just what is in our wallet or bank account. The real issue is what is ruling our heart.

So Paul is calling us to examine our hearts.



Are we using money as a tool for God's glory, or are we allowing money to become the thing we live for?



Christ must be our Lord, our treasure, and our greatest desire.

5. A Call to the Man or Woman of God

  (NIV) ***1 Timothy 6:11-12 ¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.⁵***

Now Paul shifts.

  (NIV) ***“But you, man of God, flee from all this...”*** (v.11)

Notice the urgency in Paul’s words.

- He does not say, “Be careful around greed.”
- He does not say, “Try to manage it.”

⁵ [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Ti 6:11–12.

- 🖐️ He says, **flee**.

That means run from it. Get away from anything that begins pulling your heart away from Christ. Greed is dangerous because it usually does not look dangerous at first. It may begin as a desire for a little more, a little better, a little higher, or a little more recognition. But if it is not dealt with, it can slowly take over the heart.

So Paul is saying, do not flirt with greed. Do not entertain compromise. Do not get comfortable with anything that weakens your love for Jesus or dulls your obedience to God. Some things are not meant to be debated with, negotiated with, or kept close by. They are meant to be left behind.

The believer must run from greed, selfish ambition, and worldly compromise, and run toward Christ. Paul says to

  (NIV) **“...Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”** (v.11)

 In other words, do not just run away from sin ... run toward the life God has called you to live.

Then comes the charge:

  (NIV) **“Fight the good fight of the faith...”** (v.12)

Faith is a fight.

Not against people.

Not against flesh and blood.

But against doubt, temptation, fear, compromise.

You fight by:

Standing on Scripture.

Praying in the Spirit.

Trusting God when feelings say otherwise.

And Paul says:

  (NIV) **“...Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.”** (v.12)

Live in light of eternity.

Don't drift.

Take hold.

6. The Majesty of Jesus

  (NIV) **1 Timothy 6:13-16** ¹³ **In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you** ¹⁴ **to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,** ¹⁵ **which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,** ¹⁶ **who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light,**

***whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.*⁶**

Paul breaks into worship:

  (NIV) **“...God... who gives life to everything...”** (v.13)

  (NIV) **“Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession...”** (v.13)

Jesus stood before Pilate knowing exactly what it would cost Him to tell the truth. He was being questioned by earthly authority, falsely accused, rejected by His own people, and facing the cross. Yet Jesus did not back away from who He was. He did not soften the truth to escape suffering. He did not compromise His mission to save Himself.

That is powerful.

⁶ [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Ti 6:13–16.

Jesus could have defended Himself in a way that avoided the cross, but He came for the very purpose of laying down His life for sinners. Even under pressure, He remained faithful to the Father's will.

This is why He is our perfect example. When we face pressure, criticism, temptation, or fear, we must remember Jesus before Pilate. He stood firm in truth, He trusted the Father, and He obeyed all the way to the cross.

So Paul reminds Timothy of Christ's good confession because believers are also called to stand firm. We may not face Pilate, but we will face moments where our faith is tested. In those moments, we must not deny Christ, compromise truth, or choose comfort over obedience. Jesus is our example of courage, faithfulness, and complete surrender to God.

Then Paul declares:



(NIV)

**“The blessed and only Ruler,
the King of kings and Lord of lords, who
alone is immortal and who lives in
unapproachable light...”**

(vv.15-16)

What a picture!

Jesus is not just a teacher.

He is King of kings.

He is eternal.

He is glorious.

He is worthy.

When you see Jesus clearly, the world
looks smaller.

7. Instructions to the Rich:



(NIV)

1 Timothy 6:17-19

***17 Command those who are rich in this
present world not to be arrogant nor to
put their hope in wealth, which is so***

uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. ⁷

Paul does not condemn wealth itself.
Instead he says:

  (NIV) **“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth...”** (v.17)

The issue is hope.

Is your hope in your bank account?
Or in the living God?

⁷ [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Ti 6:17–19.

  (NIV) **“...But to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”** (v.17)

God is not against His people enjoying the blessings He provides. Paul says God 

 (NIV) **“...richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”** (v.17) That means it is not wrong to enjoy a meal, a home, family, work, rest, or the good things God allows us to have.

The problem comes when those blessings take God's place in our hearts.

God is not anti-enjoyment ... He is anti-idolatry. He does not condemn us for being thankful and enjoying what He gives. But He does warn us not to worship the gift instead of the Giver.

When money, possessions, comfort, success, or pleasure become more important than Christ, they become idols.

God wants us to enjoy His blessings with gratitude, but He never wants those blessings to control us, define us, or become our source of hope.

So the issue is not enjoyment. The issue is lordship. Are we enjoying God's blessings while keeping Christ first, or are we allowing those blessings to become the center of our lives?

Then he says:

  (NIV) **“...Be rich in good deeds... generous and willing to share.”** (v.18)

Generosity lays up eternal treasure.

  (NIV) **“In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age...”** (v.19)

 Invest in eternity.

8. Guard the Gospel:



(NIV)

1 Timothy 6:20-21 ²⁰ ***Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,*** ²¹ ***which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.***

Grace be with you all. ⁸

Paul ends with urgency:



(NIV)

“Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care...” (v.20)

Guard the truth.

Guard the gospel.

Avoid



(NIV)

“...godless chatter...” (v.20)

⁸ [The New International Version](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 1 Ti 6:20–21.

There were intellectual debates then - just like now.

- Speculation.
- Philosophy.
- Arguments.

But Paul says stay anchored in truth.

The gospel does not need updating.

It needs proclaiming.

Application for Us Today:

Church, 1 Timothy 6 asks us:

- What are you pursuing?
- What are you hoping in?
- What are you fighting for?
- What are you guarding?

Are you content in Christ?

Or restless for more?

Are you fighting the good fight?

Or slowly drifting?

This world is temporary.

Eternity is real.

Jesus is coming.

Invitation to Be Born Again:

Maybe you've been chasing money.

Maybe you've been chasing status.

Maybe you've never truly surrendered your life to Jesus Christ.

The Bible says we are sinners separated from God. No amount of money, religion, or good works can save us.

Jesus Christ - the King of kings - left heaven, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for your sins, and rose again.

He paid your debt.

He conquered death.

And He offers eternal life as a gift.

  (NIV) **“Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.”** (v.12)

You take hold by faith.

By repentance.

By surrender.

If you have never been born again, today is the day.

 You can pray something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner.... I believe You died for my sins and rose again.... Forgive me.... Save me.... Be my Lord and my King.... I turn from my old life and place my trust in You alone.... Fill me with Your Spirit.... I give You my life....” Amen.

If you prayed that sincerely, the Bible says you are saved.



In closing let us Pray...

Closing Prayer:

**Father God,
Thank You for Your Word. Protect us
from loving this world more than You.
Help us fight the good fight of faith.
Strengthen us to pursue righteousness,
generosity, and eternal things. And
Lord, for anyone who surrendered their
life to You today, seal them with Your
Spirit and grow them strong in Christ.
We give You all the glory. In the mighty
name of Jesus ... our King of kings and
Lord of lords ... Amen.**



Matthew 28:19-20