

## The Steward's Heart

I Timothy 6:6-19 Sunday AM, August 18, 2024

**Prelude – Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:1-21** (NASB95) All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against. 2 Those who have believers as their masters must not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but must serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these principles. 3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. 6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. 7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen. 17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. 20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”— 21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

This morning, we take a break from the gospel of Luke AND from our look in Genesis to which we will return next week. It's good to shake things up a bit and today we do this with both our passage and our speaker. We thank Drew and Angel for coming from Life Institute to prepare us for a 2 day seminar in October. Today, Drew will do this through a look at the steward's heart from I Timothy 6. He will start in verse 6, but note what precedes. Paramount is that the name of God and the doctrine not be tarnished. And what would cause God's name to be dishonored? If slaves did not honor their masters, whether they were believers or not. What's at stake is not the “rightness” of a system of slavery, but the attitude and actions of those who profess new life through Christ. Live the doctrine conforming to godliness. Honoring God is not merely verbal assent or even heartfelt desire when worshipping God together with other believers, but a way of life permeating even the most gritty results of the fall—how we work among and under those over us in society. In the face of envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicion, and constant friction, those honoring God would live godly. Verse 6 says that this godliness combined with contentment is desirable—great gain! We see godliness as perhaps “right,” but perhaps HARD and asking too much. From where does contentment arise in a loud, twisted, and chaotic world? It comes from letting God have the final word, seeing glimpses of His greatness and the gain promised for those who trust Him and obey, and from recognizing NOTHING can shake God's holiness and surpass the worth of what He graciously gives those who deserve none of it. Those who believe this are not only faithful to God—busy doing the work of yielding to Him, but are full of praise for One so great. Church, praise the Lord!

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Praise the Lord (Ps. 150)**

Living to honor Him rooted in a contented heart. Content with all God is and has given us to be in fellowship and to serve Him in a chaotic and violent world serving themselves. How do we not focus on all that is wrong—with us, with them. By looking to what God values and seeking these things. **But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.** Focus here as you live, interact, create, plan. You will need energy, time, and money to do these things, but something higher/deeper motivates. Sing this old hymn showing the work and focus of life treasuring fellowship with God—study, meditate, and follow the path presented and you will be living in I Timothy 6.

**\*Hymn #315 (Red): Deeper and Deeper \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn David Scripture: Mark 4:1–25** (NASB95) He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land. 2 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, 3 “Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 “Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. 6 “And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. 7 “Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 “Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.” 9 And He was saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” 10 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables. 11 And He was saying to them, “To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables. 12 so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN.” 13 And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? 14 “The sower sows the word. 15 “These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. 16 “In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17 and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 “And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 “And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.” 21 And He was saying to them, “A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, is it, or under a bed? Is it not brought to be put on the lampstand? 22 “For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light. 23 “If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” 24 And He was saying to them, “Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides. 25 “For whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.”

**Offering: \*Doxology:**

**13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which He will bring about at the proper time.** Persevere in trust in God's word UNTIL the time He has set for Jesus' return—could be now, or could be after you die. The seed of God's Word has been sown in each of your hearts—what happens to it? Is your heart hard so don't hear, crave, or seek to follow? Are you distracted by worries or by what our passage today calls the uncertainty of riches—attractive because riches seem to promise a more livable life where you are not in need or dependent on anyone INCLUDING God—no reason to pray because you can just buy what you need—as easy as a click on your phone. If you don't need God, you're not looking to Him, not seeing Him, not learning more about Him, not remembering His words, and you will determine your own needs and values. Sing the heart of those who see the love of God for them and His provision in Christ and pray for this heart as Drew opens I Timothy 6 for us.

**\*Hymn #466: Jesus, Lover of My Soul**

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Christ is Mine Forevermore Message: “The Steward's Heart” Drew Gysi, I Timothy 6:6-19**

What issues were exposed this morning? What changes need to be made? What rewards were presented for yielding to God's Word? THIS is what matters—Pray this hymn as we close. His faithful follower I would be for by His hand He leadeth me.

**\*Hymn #461: He Leadeth Me \*Prayer**