

October 6, 2013

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

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1 Timothy 6:3-10

“False Teachers: Doctrines & Dollars – Part One”

Review: MINI-THEOLOGY ON WORK:

1. Work is good (Gen. 1-2; 2:15)
2. Work became harder after the Fall (Gen. 3:17ff)
3. We need rest from work (Gen. 1; Ex. 23:12)
4. We need to work hard - be diligent (Prov. 10:4; 12:11, 24, 27; 13:4, 11, 23; 14:4, 23; 21:5; 22:29; 27:23; 28:19; 31:27; Eccl. 11:4, 6). [Note the “SLUGGARD” in Proverbs]
5. Avoid the get-rich-quick schemes (Prov. 21:5; 28:19)
6. Hard work is blessed (Ps. 128:2; Prov. 12:11, 14; 13:4, 11; 14:23)
7. God joins with us in our labors (Ps. 127; I Cor. 3:9; 15:10)
8. Work is vain apart from God and an eternal perspective (Eccl. 2:11, 17-22; contrast Eccl. 2:24; 5:18f)
9. All work is to be done for God’s glory (1 Cor. 10:31; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:17; 23f) [no “secular” vs “sacred”]
10. We should work hard so we can give to others (Eph. 4:28)
11. People who don’t work should not eat (2 Th. 3:10-12)
12. Workers should be paid promptly and fairly. If you rob them, God will judge you (Lev. 19:13; Mal. 3:5; James 5:4)
13. There are many benefits to work: a) Provision for oneself (Prov. 12:14; 28:19); b) Ability to share with others (Eph. 4:28); c) Profit (Prov. 13:11; 14:23); d) Stature (Prov. 12:24); e) Happiness (Ps. 128:2; Eccl. 5:18f)

I. The Prologue (1:1-20)

II. The Body (2:1-6:19)

A. Paul’s Instruction concerning Conduct in the Church (2:1-3:16)

B. Paul’s Instruction to Timothy concerning His Personal Ministry (4:1-6:19)

1. Timothy’s Attention to Himself and His Teaching (4:1-16)

2. Timothy’s Relationships with Groups in the Church (5:1-25)

3. Paul’s Final Instruction to Timothy (6:1-19)

a. Timothy’s Instruction to Slaves (6:1-2)

b. Timothy’s Awareness of False Teachers (6:3-10)

1) Characteristics of False Teachers

a) Contrary

b) Conceited

c) Confused

d) Controversial

e) Corrupt

f) Commercialize the Gospel

2) Consequences of False Teaching

a) Envy

b) Strife

c) Abusive Language

d) Evil Suspicions

e) Constant Friction

Discussion Questions:

1. How has last week's study in 1 Tim. 6:1-2 impacted your attitudes and actions toward work? What are you specifically doing to be a positive testimony for God's name and the Gospel in the workplace?
2. Paul brings up false teachers in 1 Tim. 1:3ff and in 4:1ff. Why would he bring it up again in chapter 6? Why is sound doctrine so important to the Apostle Paul? People often say, "Doctrine divides." Do you think Paul would agree with that statement? Why or why not?
3. In 1 Tim. 6:3-5 Paul lists some characteristics of false teachers. If false teachers are like that how are they able to get away with it? Why would people follow a teacher like that?
4. Read Jude and 2 Peter 2. What other characteristics of false teachers do you find?
5. Is it possible that a person could teach sound doctrine and still have some of those characteristics? With that in mind, go back and re-read 1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1 about the qualifications for leaders in the church. What is the focus of those qualifications? Why are those more important in the church than natural abilities like public speaking, leadership, organizational skills, etc.?
6. Do you struggle with any of the characteristics of false teachers? What is your specific plan to put off those behaviors and replace them with godliness? How will sound doctrine help? For each area where you struggle, find an appropriate bible passage to memorize and meditate upon.
7. Look at the Consequences of False Teaching on the outline. Why would those things be the fruit of false teaching? Are the consequences connected to each other? How are they connected to the Characteristics of the false teachers?
8. What do you know about "Prosperity Preaching?" What would the Apostle Paul think about Prosperity Preaching? (See also Acts 20:31-35; 1 Cor. 9; 2 Cor. 11:23-27)
9. In 1 Tim. 6:5 Paul says that these false teachers "suppose that godliness is a means of gain." What kind of gain is he referring to here? What biblical passages might they distort to come to that conclusion? What biblical passages clearly show that they are wrong? Have you ever believed that your "godliness" would obligate God to give you something? Is God obligated to bless us with health & wealth if we live a godly lifestyle? What is the root problem with this belief system?
10. Read Acts 17:11. What are you doing to guard yourself from being led astray by false teachers? What is your responsibility for your own life? For your children? For others in our church?
11. Next week we will look at contentment. What is contentment? What other biblical passages address contentment? Does contentment take away motivation to work hard? How does sound doctrine impact contentment? What would a contented person look like?