

December 1, 2013  
The Bridge Bible Fellowship  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
1 Timothy 6:20-21

## “On Guard!”

- I. The Prologue (1:1-20)
- II. The Body (2:1-6:19)

**Summary of Paul’s instructions to the rich:** “Looking over both the paragraphs about money, the apostle’s balanced wisdom becomes apparent. Against **materialism** (an obsession with material possessions) he sets **simplicity** of lifestyle. Against **asceticism** (the repudiation of the material order) he sets **gratitude** for God’s creation. Against **covetousness** (the lust for more possessions) he sets **contentment** with what we have. Against **selfishness** (the accumulation of goods for ourselves) he sets **generosity** in imitation of God. **Simplicity, gratitude, contentment and generosity constitute a healthy quadrilateral of Christian living.**” (John Stott, “*Guard the Truth,*” p. 162-163).

- III. The Epilogue (6:20-21)
  - A. God’s Guard – v. 20-21a

- 1. Duties

- 2. Dangers

- B. God’s Grace – v. 21b

## Discussion Questions:

1. Read John Stott's summary of Paul's instructions to the rich at the top of the outline. How are you doing at developing simplicity, gratitude, contentment and generosity? What are the benefits of having those qualities in your life? How do they help you take hold of that which is life indeed? What will you do this week to grow stronger in each of those areas? What memory verses would help?
2. What does it mean to "guard" something that has been entrusted to your care (especially something of incredible value)? What is the deposit that was entrusted to Timothy (cf. 2 Tim. 1:13-14)? Why did Paul think it was so valuable? Is it that valuable to you? If not, why not? If so, how does it show in your daily life?
3. What are some examples of worldly and empty chatter in 1 & 2 Timothy? What are some examples in everyday life? What are some examples in churches and/or world religions? Why is it so important that we AVOID this kind of talk? How do we know if something is worldly or empty? What is our measuring rod for what we should and should not listen to?
4. What are some opposing arguments to Christianity? Why would Paul say these arguments are falsely called 'knowledge'? If highly educated, intellectual people say something is true does that make it true? (See Romans 1:16-23)
5. How might the love of money make people more open to things that are not true?
6. What is the danger if we don't guard the truth (Jude 3-4; 1 Tim. 1:3-7, 18-20; 4:1-5, 15-16; 5:11-15; 6:3-10, 21)? If the truth is that important what is the one thing a church should insist their pastor spend his time doing (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 5:17f; 2 Tim. 2:15)? What should the members of the church do so the pastor doesn't have to spend too much of his time doing other things?
7. Do you **love** the truth (God's Word – Ps. 119:97)? Do you **believe** it (Jn. 5:24)? Do you **treasure** it (Job 23:12; Ps. 119:9, 11)? Do you **obey** it (Jn. 8:31)? Do you **proclaim** it (2 Tim. 4:2)? Do you **defend** it (Jude 3)? Do you **study** it (2 Tim. 2:15)? How does this show up in your daily lifestyle?
8. What is **grace**? What role does grace play in our salvation (justification, sanctification, and glorification) Why does Paul mention grace at the beginning and ending of his letters? (See Rom. 1:7; 16:20, 24; 1 Cor. 1:3; 16:23; 2 Cor. 1:2; 13:14; Gal. 1:3; 6:18; Eph. 1:2; 6:24; Phil. 1:2; 4:23; Col. 1:2; 4:18; 1 Th. 1:1; 5:28; 2 Th. 1:2; 3:18; 1 Tim. 1:2; 6:21; 2 Tim. 1:2; 4:22; Tit. 1:4; 3:15; Phile 23; Phile 25)
9. Look up these verses and meditate on all the things God says about His amazing grace: Justification - Rom. 3:24; Righteousness – Rom. 5:17; Power to witness – Acts 4:33; Spiritual gifts – Rom. 12:6; Stand in grace – Rom. 5:2; 1 Pet. 5:12; Labor flows out of grace – 1 Cor. 15:10; Ministry is a gift of grace – Rom. 1:5; Giving of thanks comes from grace – 2 Cor. 4:15; Sacrificial giving comes from grace – 2 Cor. 8-9; Sufficiency & abundance come from grace – 2 Cor. 9:8; Surpassing grace is in us - 2 Cor. 9:14; Power comes from grace - 2 Cor. 12:9; Redemption & forgiveness through the riches of His grace - Eph. 1:7; Preaching Christ is a gift of God's grace - Eph. 3:7f; God's love, eternal comfort & good hope come by grace - 2 Th. 2:16; Strengthening comes from grace - 2 Tim. 2:1; Heb. 13:9; Grace instructs us to deny ungodliness, live godly, look for Christ's return & be zealous for good deeds - Titus 2:11-14; We are heirs by His grace - Titus 3:7; We can come to God's throne of grace & find grace to help in time of need - Heb. 4:16; We can grow in grace - 2 Peter 3:18. Now sing "AMAZING GRACE."