

“Letters to Timothy” (Part 3)
Pastor Jeff Alexander + September 25, 2016

1 Tim. 6:6 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.

Godliness + Contentment = Great Gain

1 Tim. 6:9 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.

Money itself is *not* evil. The love and constant pursuit of money is what causes great harm.

What kind of problems are often the results of people’s love of money?

1 Tim. 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

While many “wander” from the faith, we are called to “pursue” the things of God.

Keeping in step with the Holy Spirit, disciples will discipline themselves (cf. Gal. 5:22-25).

1 Tim. 6:12 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.

“Fighting the good fight” means standing in Christ’s victory over the devil and over all the temptations of the sinful world to depart from Christ.

Colossians 1:13-14

For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Our “good confession” is saying to the world: “What Christ did, He did *for me*. I belong to Him!”

1 Tim. 6:17 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.

Paul shows how it’s possible to be “rich” and not wander away from Christ.

- Put your confidence in God, not worldly wealth.
- Be generous and willing to share your blessings with others.
- Invest yourself in “the life that is truly life”—eternal life in heaven (cf. Matt. 6:19-21)!

1 Tim. 4:4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, **5** because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.