

# Paul's 1st Letter to Timothy



## Lesson 6-Charged to Follow God rather than the World

**Focus:** 1 Timothy 6:1-21

### ➤ **Bondservants and service to their masters (v.1,2)**

- *For those who were serving as servants, bond-servants or slaves, Paul was counseling that the person in that situation, who is a Christian, should serve their duty and their post very well. They should let their light shine as a true and faithful servant of Jesus Christ! By a loving Christian example, and by an example of cheerful and diligent service they could truly speak well of the name of Jesus Christ and glorify Him! By letting their light shine before men they could glorify their Father who is in Heaven (See Matthew 5:16). We should be faithful and diligent in our work because it sets a good example for honoring the name of Jesus Christ! Also, if a Christian is servant or slave to another Christian, then they should still show love, respect and diligence towards their brother or sister in Christ for such was right. Timothy (and we too for that matter) was (are) to teach such things!*
- *Slavery was a widespread practice throughout the Roman government at the time in History when this was written. It was a well-accepted practice by many. Paul (and the other apostles) did not set out to challenge this practice right from the get go. It was not their aim to battle the socially and legally established practice of slavery. Such would have been quite a task, which was not theirs to do at that time. They were to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, while not making a big political stand or war against the practice of slavery [which would have detracted them from the ALL IMPORTANT work of sharing the gospel]. The method here was rather to present the truth of the gospel in Jesus Christ, introducing and pointing people to the all-powerful Savior of the world—Jesus Christ! Only Jesus and His principles, when widespread into the hearts of men, could work a transformation that would begin to change the habits and customs of a world lost in sinful practices. By preaching the gospel far and near the principles which could save and also which could remove the injustices of slavery would take their rightful place and accomplish a great work!*
- **Other examples: 2 Kings 5:1-4** shows us an example of the testimony that can be made when a servant or slave simply loves and works cheerfully for God! They can make an example and testimony that will change lives. This principle can also be found in **1 Peter 3:1-4**. Additionally, in ancient Israel, someone who enjoyed doing the service of a slave or a servant could choose to do so for life! (See **Deuteronomy 15:12-18**). If one was treated well in such a position [and not dehumanized or abused] then truly it should not be such a bad thing (even as compared to other employments). It is when people are abused and dehumanized that it becomes a very terrible thing. But freedom is also nice and important, so if someone wishes for such, it would be nice to restore it. Essentially, military service today is in many ways like slavery though we don't often consider it that way. You lose your freedoms and must serve as you are told to do, upon threat of penalty if you do not obey every command. Some yet enjoy that kind of service.

### ➤ **Following the sins and greed of the world or following God and His goodness (v.3-8)**

- Anyone who fights against such righteous teachings, such as those listed above in God’s word, is actually fighting against the truth of God. Those teaching contrary to this sound doctrine are basically pushing the pride of men and that money or worldly “gain” is better or more to be desired than godliness. But, Paul points out here that **godliness and righteous character should be FAR MORE important to us than some type of worldly gain. Worldly gain is nothing, but godliness is everything! We should therefore be content even with the basic essentials of life, as long as we can have a righteous and godly character [which is the most important thing to have]! We cannot take earthy treasures with us to heaven, but we can, must, and do take our character with us wherever we go—yes, even to Heaven! Therefore let our characters be made like unto Christ’s lovely character—transformed by Him and His power! (2 Cor. 3:17,18). Store up your treasures in Heaven, as Jesus said (Matthew 6:19-24,33).**
- **Seeking God’s righteous Character or seeking money? (v.9-16)**
  - (v.9,10) By chasing money, many have ruined their character and gone after sin—just for the sake of some worldly gain. This can only lead to tragedy and ruin. *“The LOVE of money is at the root of all kinds of evils” (v.10, marginal reading, KJV). Lots of sin and corruption comes from the love of money (not money only, but the love of it). People have sacrificed good principle and have robbed, stole from, lied to, and abused others all for the sake of money.*
  - (v.11-16) We are called instead to follow the righteous and eternal God only! And to honor and serve Him!
- **Charging the Rich and charging Timothy the Young Minister (v.17-21)**
  - (v.17-19) *Those who are rich are to use their money well to help in the service of God. They should be generous towards God and be sure to have a heart for God! For where their treasure is, there will their heart be also! (Matthew 6:21). Therefore put your heart with God and His eternal cause!!*
  - (v.20-21) *Neither Timothy, nor we, should ever follow influences that are counter to Christ.*

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Would you like to follow God’s ways and seek His treasures rather than the world’s? \_\_\_\_\_**