

TITLE: DISTRACTIONS (FROM THE FAITH) & THEIR REMEDIES

TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 6

THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to address two of the biggest distractions to the faith, along with their remedies.

INTRO: If you could wipe out one problem in your life... permanently, what would it be? Money-related problems? Disrespect of others (we all sometimes feel like we don't get the respect we deserve)? Problems resulting from lack of control (control we *think* we should have but don't)? Are these *really* problems? Do we really need these things? Maybe the real problem is in the fact that we *think* we need these things, when we really don't! What if instead we could wipe out these supposed needs? How would we fare spiritually?

I. PRIDE & POWER (v. 3-8):

A. Problem (v. 3-5)

1. Some will *teach otherwise* (same as 1:3 – “teach no other doctrine”)
2. And consent not to *wholesome* words (sound, healthy - **1:10**; **2 Tim 1:13** - hold fast ; **2 Tim 4:3** – they won't endure...)
3. This person is proud (haughty, conceited, arrogant), knowing (understanding) nothing
4. Doting (“ailment of the mind,” obsessing to the point of sickness, “morbid fondness”) about questions (disputes, debates) and strifes (contentions) of words. Results?
 - a. Envy (jealousy) – of someone's scholarship... preacher envy! Preachers are extremely vulnerable to this.
 - b. Strife (quarrels, contentions)
 - c. Railings – (βλασφημία “blasphemy” – evil speaking, slander)
 - d. Evil surmisings (suspicious) – this shows complete lack of trust in a brother
 - e. Perverse disputings (meddlesomeness, useless occupation) of men of corrupt minds (decaying, rotten)
They think gain (in power, money, prestige) is godliness. They equate the two – religion is a way of secular profit.
This all results from PRIDE, trusting in one's own knowledge, desiring POWER and glory, instead of trusting in the Word and giving God the glory.

B. Remedy (v. 6-8)

1. (v. 6) True gain results from being godly, AND being content with being godly!
Christians should be satisfied, sufficient, content knowing that we are living like God wants us to. We need nothing else!
2. (v. 7) “we can carry nothing out”-“You can't take it with you!” “For dust thou art, & unto dust shall thou return” (**Gen 3:19**)
3. (v. 8) Be content w/food & clothing. Don't worry about these things (Mt 6:28). Jesus had no place to lay his head (**Mt 8:20**).

II. MONEY (v. 9-19):

A. Problem (v. 9-10)

1. The desire to be rich – *nobody* is immune to this disease! It's not how much money you *have*, it's how much you *want*!
2. This disease causes temptation, a snare (trap, noose), unintelligent and hurtful desires – bringing spiritual destruction!
3. Why? Because “the *love of money* is a root of all the evils” (probably has specific reference to the evils mentioned here)
Money & possessions motivate a man in every wrong way. Everything is centered around this pursuit.
*Isn't it true that our lives are centered on our #1 pursuit? **What is yours?** What is God's? His is and always has been LOVE! He loves his creation so much that everything in the Bible is focused on this point (creation, law, Christ, church).

B. Remedy (v. 11-19) Men and women of God are to:

1. (v. 11-16) For Timothy
 - a. (v. 11) Flee these problems (love and pursuit of money)
 - b. Pursue righteousness (being right before God), godliness (being like God), faith (*the* faith; personal faith), love (agape - seeking others' best interests), patience, meekness (compared to the proud man of v. 4-5 who only wants self-gain)
 - c. (v. 12) *Fight* the good fight of faith - remembering what he just said about patience/meekness (& the proud man in v. 4)
- We are to contend earnestly for the faith (**Jude 3**), understanding when to fight and when to walk away.
- Lay hold on eternal life – this is the prize for which we are to strive and work and agonize
 - d. (v. 13-14) Seriousness of Timothy's work – Paul calls God and Christ as witnesses to this charge
Timothy was to keep this commandment (v. 11-12, as well as the entirety of the letter) without spot and unrebukeable, until Christ returns. This wouldn't happen in Timothy's life, so he must accomplish it by teaching others (**2 Tim 2:2**).
 - e. (v. 15-16) In the midst of this charge to Timothy, Paul, as usual, can't keep quiet about Jesus!
- (v. 13) He testified a good confession (that He was the Son of God)
- (v. 15) In His own times, he'll show (reference to his appearing – v. 14)
- He is the Blessed and only potentate (ruler); King of kings and Lord of lords; to whom belong all honor & power!
In the midst of everything we do, let us NOT FORGET JESUS!
2. (v. 17-19) For others (who are rich)
 - a. Don't be highminded (arrogant)! Don't hope in uncertain wealth! Hope in God, who gives us all things we need.
 - b. Be rich in good works (he says it twice); ready to distribute, willing to communicate (fellowship).
 - c. Goal – to lay hold (seize) eternal life (same goal as Timothy's – v. 12)

CONCLUSION: Take away love of money and pride and power, and there'd be a lot more perfect people in the world! It seems that these distractions discussed by Paul in 1 Tim 6 cover so many of the world's (and the church's) problems. If we could stop focusing on ourselves for a moment or two, we'd find that God's way really works. Have faith in Him, that he has given and will continue to give us all things we need in this life, if we will keep his commandments.