



Faith Baptist Church of Cabot, Arkansas
Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study
February 10, 2010

Lesson Nineteen - The Health and Wealth Gospel
1 Timothy 6:3-10

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of* gain. From such withdraw yourself. Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Introduction

As the Apostle Paul draws his letter to Timothy to a conclusion, he gives him final warnings about others and himself. Paul is concerned that Timothy not get caught up in profitless contentions and dangerous desires, but to keep Himself spotless and irreproachable until the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ. (14)

Exegesis

❖ The Attitude to Avoid

- The attitude contrary to wholesome words

Wholesome words are the words of Jesus Christ and the teachings contained within those words. So that the words of Jesus are to have a practical and relevant impact in our lives, namely that we live in Godliness conducting our lives reverently before God. The teachings of Jesus are more than doctrine to know, they are truths by which to live.

- The attitude of arrogance

The one who does not consent to wholesome words is arrogant and ignorant. He may be educated and well spoken, but he does not know God. True reverential knowledge of God leads to humility.

- The attitude of contention

The arrogance of the man who does not consent to wholesome words is evidenced in his obsession with debates and wrangling over words. This man's ministry objective is not to demonstrate the righteousness of Christ, but rather to demonstrate that he, himself, is right. This attitude promotes envy, strife (selfish rivalry), reviling (reproachful

speeches), evil suspicions and useless wranglings (constant frictions). All of this bears evidence to men of corrupt minds (faulty reasoning) who have not had the truth.

➤ The attitude of greed

This is not merely an indictment of televangelist fleecing the unsuspecting. This is an indictment against any man who views his eldership as a job by which to make a living rather than a calling by which to glorify Jesus. It is the man whose life is spent trying to appear Godly enough to keep the paycheck coming.

❖ The Attitude to Maintain

➤ An attitude of contentment

The great acquisition is reverencing God contentedly. There is no greater contenting treasure than knowing that you are right with the God of the universe and that your life is securely in His hands. No earthly acquisition can provide such peace.

➤ An attitude of eternal perspective

Whatever is gained in the world stays in the world. Only what is gained from the Kingdom of God translates into eternity. Earthly acquisition is a bad investment. (Matthew 6:19-20)

❖ The Attitude that Leads Astray

➤ The desire to be rich

It is not an issue of being rich, per se. Nor is it an issue of money. It is an issue of *desire* and *love*. Which means that you can be poor and be guilty as surely as you can be rich and be guilty. It is a matter of heart. (Matthew 6:21)

➤ The danger of discontentment

The *desire* to be rich and *love* of money will drag a man down and lead a man astray. The *desire* to be rich comes with temptations, traps, foolish and harmful passions that overwhelm good reason and bring about ruin and destruction. The eagerness of greed blinds a man leading him astray from the faith and plunges him into painful sorrows.

Application

1. “Does not consent to wholesome words...strayed from the faith in their greediness.” Are you going to trust Jesus and so live contentedly in His teachings or are you going to faithlessly fear the loss of yourself and your things and live discontentedly in greed?
2. This is a matter of the heart, a matter of faith and fear.
3. This is a matter of confidence in Christ and His care. (Matthew 6:22-34)