

Union Bethel AME Church Bible Study

Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#

Zoom Meeting ID 895 5691 3317, Passcode 650467

Facebook™ Live @unionbethelameccary

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

1 Timothy 6:1-21



1 Timothy 6:1-2

1 Let all who are under the yoke of slavery regard their masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be blasphemed. 2 Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful to them on the ground that they are members of the church; rather they must serve them all the more, since those who benefit by their service are believers and beloved.

This scripture is one of several where Paul directs slaves to obey masters. In this verse Paul does acknowledge that slavery is a yoke. It is not something that is painless nor is it a situation that most would enter happily. In these pastoral letters Paul speaks more to slaves than to slave masters. He appears to repeat his words on honoring those in authority whether good or bad. He implies that good masters who are members of the church are not mistreating their slaves and therefore should be esteemed.

How can we honor “bad” rulers or leaders without appearing to approve of actions that are wrong?

1 Timothy 6:3-5

Teach and urge these duties. 3 Whoever teaches otherwise and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that is in accordance with godliness, 4 is conceited, understanding nothing, and has a morbid craving for controversy and for disputes about words. From these come envy, dissension, slander, base suspicions, 5 and wrangling among those who are depraved in mind and bereft of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

Paul's concern in these verses is for those who whip up controversy in the words that they speak. Too many wanted to appear godly, but their hearts were not submitted to God. These are the people who disagree with sound Biblical principles, and instead, fill the world with words that hurt and that cause unnecessary strife. They think that their worldview aligns with God but it does not. They speak negatively about those who disagree and think that false godliness will bring them worldly riches.

Think about our current situation and the rise of QAnon. What in these verses applies to our current atmosphere of conspiracy theories?

1 Timothy 6:6-10

6 Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; 7 for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; 8 but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

We should be content with true godliness. Money is necessary for food and clothing but it is only needed in this world. The love of money and the things money can buy gets us in trouble. When we walk with God we have all we need.

How should we explain to a young person about the pursuit of dreams and contentment with God?

1 Timothy 6:11-16

11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 16 It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Paul asks Timothy to stay away from the pull this world has toward fame and fortune. It is better for Timothy to stay strong in his faith. This is the promise of a reward of eternal life that is more precious than the rewards this world offers. To stay away from the calling of this world, Timothy must keep the commandments in full and not in part until Jesus returns. This is not just a responsibility for Timothy, but also for us in this present day.

With all of the temptations that are present now, how can Paul's words be supportive and serve as a guide for leaders in the church today?

1 Timothy 6:17-19

17 As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, 19 thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Some of us will be blessed with financial riches. There is nothing wrong with those riches, but our hope should never be in what is confined to this earth, is not eternal, and eventually will fail or fade away. Our deeds should outpace our financial gains. The more we are blessed, the more we should share.

In what ways can we not become reliant on the riches in this world?

1 Timothy 6:20-21

20 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the profane chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; **21** by professing it some have missed the mark as regards the faith. Grace be with you.

In his benediction for this section, Paul specifically tells Timothy to guard (take care of) those souls entrusted to him in Ephesus. Timothy must avoid listening to idle words that are raised up as truth but in fact are false. There will be people speaking against church members. Timothy must not only not engage in gossip, he must also not be swayed to think about someone in a negative light nor treat them differently. The gossips are missing the point of faith by elevating false notions.

How can leaders avoid the doubt that accompanies falsehoods?

Today, are leaders really guarding the souls entrusted to them?
