



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The First Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy

Chapter 6

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Introduction

- In this chapter, St. Paul is instructing his disciple Timothy regarding:
- Slavery (1-2)
- False Teachers (3-10)
- The Good Fight of Faith (11-16)
- The Rich (17-19)
- Final Exhortation (20-21)



Slavery (1 Tim 6:1-2)

- Christianity does not support slavery, but if the system allows this, Christianity instructs the slaves to demonstrate godly behavior as a way of Evangelism (the servant of Naaman the Syrian and Joseph the righteous)
- Thus, the person elevates himself above all the surrounding circumstances



Slavery (1 Tim 6:1-2)

- Under yoke: the apostle identifies himself with them, feeling their pain and suffering
- Own masters: implies submissiveness
- All honor: inward submission not the outward only
- Blasphemed: What kind of a God must be the God of the Christians, when such are the fruits of His worship



Slavery (1 Tim 6:1-2)

- For the believing masters, he did not use the word “yoke”
- Let the slaves not, because the masters are brethren and so equals, masters and slaves alike being Christians, despise the masters
- Rather with great love and faithfulness they should serve them since they are beloved and believers



False Teachers (1 Tim 6:3-10)

- Otherwise: Different than what I taught you which are the teachings of the Lord
- The words of St. Paul are the words of the Lord (inspiration).
- Wholesome: Sound doctrines
- Sound doctrines leads to a godly life



False Teachers (1 Tim 6:3-10)

- The false teachers are proud, blind, know nothing of the sound doctrines
- They do not investigate the Truth, but just argue over words
- Arguments lead to envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, and useless wranglings



False Teachers (1 Tim 6:3-10)

- The false teachers have corrupt minds: the source of evil is the perverted mind
- Destitute of the truth: They are misled by their pride
- They use godliness as a way to advance one's worldly interests



False Teachers (1 Tim 6:3-10)

- The true teacher and believer should avoid completely such arguments
- Though they err in this, but godliness is not merely gain, but great means of gain not the earthly one which leads to discontentment but the present joy and eternal gain where godliness with its fruit the contentment secure the soul



False Teachers (1 Tim 6:3-10)

- Why should we be content?
- Because we entered the world with nothing and we will leave with nothing
- So long as we have food and clothing, we should not become greedy gain seekers



False Teachers (1 Tim 6:3-10)

- Desire to be rich: to have more than food and clothing because the trust in riches
- They are not exposed but fall into temptation
- Snare: of the devil, a further step downwards



False Teachers (1 Tim 6:3-10)

- Foolish: irrational
- Harmful lusts: which deceive to one's deadly hurt
- Drown: the last step in this terrible descent
- Perdition: destruction of the body and soul in hell



False Teachers (1 Tim 6:3-10)

- Love of money, not the money itself, is the root of all evils because it destroys the faith which is the root of all good
- Many sorrows: choke the word of faith in them and also choke themselves, too (Matthew 13:22)
- Be generous - give without expecting anything in return

The Good Fight Of Faith (1 Tim 6:11-16)



- Man of God who has God as his true riches
- Flee love of money
- Righteousness: more in relation with men
- Godliness: in relation to God
- Faith: is the root of both

The Good Fight Of Faith (1 Tim 6:11-16)



- Love: by which faith works
- Patience: enduring perseverance amidst trials
- Gentleness: react to opponents in humbleness and meekness
- Our spiritual life is a fight and war against the devil

The Good Fight Of Faith (1 Tim 6:11-16)



- The winners of the good fight lay hold on the prize (eternal life)
- All of us are invited to eternal life
- The confession: in Baptism, before ordination, in our everyday life
- Witnesses: who would testify against you if you fall away

The Good Fight Of Faith (1 Tim 6:11-16)



- Gives life to all things: this is the assurance of the eternal life
- The Lord's part was to witness that He is the King and His kingdom is that of the Truth
- Our part is to confess the Truth following the example of our Lord.

The Good Fight Of Faith (1 Tim 6:11-16)



- The commandment: the gospel of God
- Keep the commandment pure and without blame expecting the Coming of the Lord to judge the world
- Times: the plural implies successive stages in the manifestation of the kingdom of God

The Good Fight Of Faith (1 Tim 6:11-16)



- God the Father is the One who is in charge of the times (Acts 1:7)
- Blessed: in Himself and source of all blessings
- Potentate: the only Royal Leader, King of kings and Lord of lords
- In His essence He is immortal

The Good Fight Of Faith (1 Tim 6:11-16)



- If one cannot gaze steadfastly at the sun, which is but a small part of creation, by reason of its exceeding heat and power, how much less can mortal man gaze at the inexpressible glory of God?
- God the Father is unseen (John 1:18)



The Rich (1 Tim 6:17-19)

- What ought to be their disposition:
 - ❖ Not to be haughty
 - ❖ Not to trust in riches that are uncertain
 - ❖ Trust in God (who provides riches, temporal and eternal, to enjoy)



The Rich (1 Tim 6:17-19)

- What use they ought to make of their riches
 - ❖ Do good
 - ❖ Rich in good works
 - ❖ Free givers
 - ❖ Admitting others to share our goods



The Rich (1 Tim 6:17-19)

- The consequences of using them:
 - ❖ Storing as a treasure good foundation for the time to come (here and in heaven)
 - ❖ Lay hold on eternal life

Final Exhortation (1 Tim 6:20-21)



- Guard what was committed to your trust: the sound doctrines: “It is not yours: it is another’s property with which you have been entrusted: Diminish it not at all” [Chrysostom]
- Where there is not faith, there is not knowledge [Chrysostom]

Final Exhortation (1 Tim 6:20-21)



- One element of guarding the faith is to avoid idle babblings and false knowledge
- Those who profess these oppositions have erred from the True Faith
- He restricts the salutation to Timothy, as the Epistle was not to be read in public



Conclusion

- What is the church stand regarding slavery?
- What is the sin behind false teaching?
- Why should we be content?
- What are the characteristics of the man of God?
- What should be the disposition of the rich? What should they do? Why?