

Personal/Small Group Study Notes

Week of October 9, 2022 A.D.

Contentment

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10

1. Refer to verse 6. What is "godliness"? How does a person receive and/or attain godliness? Has God given to mankind a way and/or ways to seek, know, and/or live in godliness? If so, (a) what are those ways and (b) why has God done so?
2. Refer to verse 6. What is "contentment"? Does God want all followers of Christ to be content? In your opinion, are American Christians content? Are you content? What affect has discontentment had on the American (a) culture? and (b) church?
3. Is there such a thing as a "holy discontent"? If so, is it a good or bad thing to have? What are the positive results of a holy discontent, if there are any? What are the negative results if there are any?
4. Refer to verses 7-8. Are each of those verses always true for all people at all times and at all places? If not, why not? If not, what are the consequences for (a) societies? (b) families? (c) individuals? and (d) the people of planet Earth? In each instance, please explain if those consequences are positive or negative. If any consequences are negative, is there anything that can be done by humans to avoid those consequences?
5. Are (a) you, (b) your household, and/or (c) your Christian friends content to have only food and clothing? State how the contentment, or the lack of contentment, affects the lives of the people in each group.
6. Refer to verse 9. In your opinion, is verse 9 universally and always true? Please state examples in support of your opinion.

7. Refer to verse 10. In your opinion, what is "the love of money"? Why would any person love money? How widespread is "the love of money"? Please state as many examples as you can of the "all kinds of evil" which have their "root" in the love of money.
8. Does the final sentence of verse 10 apply to Christians? What does it mean to: (a) "wander from the faith"? (b) "pierce themselves with many griefs"? Are the people who are described in verse 10 going to hell?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19

9. In these verses, is Paul giving a "command" to Timothy? Does Paul have the right and the authority to give "commands" to Timothy? If so, why? If not, why not? Does Timothy - and does every church pastor - have the right, the authority, and the obligation to command his fellow Christians to obey these verses? If not, why not? If so, (a) how often do pastors do so? and (b) how do the people respond to that command when it is given to them?
10. Please describe and discuss the result that would be seen by the world if all followers of Jesus (i.e. the church) were obedient to the commands of verse 17.
11. Please describe and discuss the extent and the degree to which (a) your church - and (b) the American church at large - is obedient to the command of verse 18. Please state examples of (and the results which you have seen from) such obedience.
12. Refer to verse 19. Do you believe with absolute certainty that you are going to live with Christ in heaven for eternity? If not, why not? If so, have you dedicated the balance of your life on earth to being "rich in good deeds and being generous and willing to share" your worldly possessions with others as Christ has commanded all of us to do? If not, why not? If so, why?

Consider: It is utterly foolish (in fact, it is downright stupid) to devote your life to the accumulation and hoarding of the temporary things of earth. On the other hand, it is the epitome of wisdom to devote your life to the accumulation of indescribable and unbelievable treasures in heaven which you will be able to enjoy for eternity. "You think about that." Amen.