

1 Timothy 6:11-21 Godliness in Words and Money

Notes:

- There are three clear parts:
 - vv. 11-16, Paul giving charges to Timothy to hold the confession and pursue Christian virtues
 - vv. 17-19, Commands to not put their hope in wealth, to be generous, and rich in good deeds.
 - vv. 20-21, Final comments to avoid godless chatter and a farewell greeting
- Verses 3-10 talked about the characteristics of false teachers and the dangers of seeking riches. The false teachers themselves were corrupted by their pursuit of money.
- Verses 11-21 give the opposite instruction, the characteristics of godly teaching and a correct view of one's wealth.
- This section also shares a very similar structure to the letters opening, serving as a conclusion, reinforcing the importance of faithfulness, godliness in one's life and teaching, as well as a proper view of one's possessions.

Questions

1. What do you think are the marks of the qualities Paul lists in v. 11: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness?
2. Paul exhorts Timothy to be steadfast in his confession of the faith. How does the example of Jesus serve to strengthen your confession of faith in Christ, especially when you feel weak in your faith?
3. Paul worship God through a list of his attributes: ruler, King, Lord, immortal, and in unapproachable light. Why is this relevant to our struggles in life? In what way do these qualities of God give us confidence?
4. vv.17-19, return to positive instructions on wealth in contrast to the warnings in vv. 6-10. How does being financially secure make you prone to arrogance?
5. How have you found yourself putting your hope in wealth at times?
6. How does what God richly provide for us in Christ, enable us to be generous and rich in good deeds? In what ways may God be pressing you to become more grateful and generous so you may enjoy him more fully?