



# “Godly Financial Leadership”

## 1 Timothy 6

### Lesson 7

#### *In A Nutshell*

Finances are an important part of your Christian testimony. They also relate to how we ought to behave in the household of God, so Paul devotes a chapter to this important topic. You will develop a godly attitude about finances as you study chapter 6.

#### *To The Testimony!*

#### A Godly Work Ethic

- 1 Tim.  
6:1
1. The history of what we today call *employment* is actually rooted in the concepts of slavery and serfdom. No doubt, there have been times at work when your experiences with your job have taken you back to these roots. Slavery is a concept that Americans find repulsive, cause for revolution and rebellion. “All men are created equal,” and yet the inequality of the master and his slave will always be a part of the workplace. Downsizing and foreign competition can create hardship for even the modern employee. People can be difficult to work with and for. We have our share of negative experiences at work today. How does the Lord want us to respond? Why does He want us to respond this way?

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- 1 Tim.  
6:2
- Gal.  
6:10
2. What is Paul trying to guard against in verse two? Why would Paul need to do this? How else might this principle apply in areas other than employer-employee relations?

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- 1 Tim. 6:3-5
- 2 Thess. 3:6-15
3. When Paul speaks of teaching "otherwise" in verse 3, he uses the word *heterodidasko*, the same word he used in 1 Tim. 1:3 ("other doctrine"). Read 2 Thess. 3:6-15 to get a more thorough presentation of Paul's teaching regarding the work ethic. First, define Paul's work ethic from verse 10 of that passage. Then from 1 Tim. 6:3-5, how are men who teach "otherwise," when it comes to a Scriptural work ethic, described? How should we respond to this teaching?

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## A Godly Contentment

- 1 Tim. 6:6-10
4. Contentment is the settled conviction that having our needs supplied is enough (verse 8). Paul calls this disposition "great gain" because it keeps us from focusing on things that do not last (verse 7). What is the opposite of contentment according to this passage? What is the spiritual impact of this opposite disposition on the life of a Christian man or woman?

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- 1 Tim. 6:11-14
- John 18:33-38
- Matthew 6:33
5. Paul calls Timothy a "man of God" in verse 11. A man of God does not live according to the philosophy "gain is godliness." He flees materialism, follows godly discipline, and fights the battles of faith having publicly committed his life to these causes. The Lord Jesus also made a public "confession" (v. 13). Read that confession in John 18:36. How should Christ's confession affect how important material gain is to us?

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1 Tim.  
6:13-16

6. We have seen how Christ's confession before Pilate ought to affect our view of materialism. Now after reading verses 13-16, how should the nature of God affect how important material gain is to us?

Luke  
12:13-21

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## From The Honeycomb

What does the name *Potentate* say about our God?

The Greek word is *dunastas*, a word related to the Greek word for *power*, a word from which we derive the word *dynamite*.

Look up the usage of this word in Luke 1:52, and try to explain what this word says about the nature of God: "He hath put down the \_\_\_\_\_ from their seats, and exalted them of low degree."

How is God the blessed and only Potentate?

## A Godly Charge To The Rich

1 Tim.  
6:17-19

7. The Bible never teaches that it is a sin to be rich, only that it is a sin to desire to be rich. It is possible to be rich and not be materialistic. What characteristics will be true in the life of a wealthy believer if that believer is not materialistic?

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## A Godly Investment

1 Tim.  
6:20-21

8. Paul uses a banking term when he says, "that which is committed to thy *trust*," in verse 20. Today, we would call it a *deposit*. We trust a bank with our deposit for safe-keeping, and Paul entrusted to Timothy the doctrine of God and the responsibility of the churches for safe-keeping. Real estate ventures and risky foreign investments have caused some banks to break the trust of their depositors in the past. What did Timothy have to guard against in order to keep the trust the Lord had deposited with him? What must pastors do today in order to keep the "deposit" of the Lord safe?

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## Real Life?

Parker Patterson heard it again on the radio as he drove home from work that evening. It was the end of the month, the car payment had left him scraping bottom, the VISA bill was due again, the mortgage payment was just around the corner, and anticipating the evening ahead with his checkbook and calculator, Parker was intrigued by what he heard, "65 million dollars! You won't win if you won't play!"

The state lottery was setting a record that week, and the whole office, with the exception of Parker, had pooled together to buy 500 tickets. He enjoyed musing about what life would be like with a bank account like that. As things stood now, his bills would be covered because Parker was getting paid next Wednesday, but \$65,000,000 was another story. First would come the mortgage burning party (after an appropriate tithe, of course), then the Mercedes, next the vacation home on the coast, and finally the life of bliss on the golf course. His co-worker, John, told him that he had until tomorrow to kick in his 20 bucks, and that he was "nuts" if he did not give it a try.

Parker laughed as he thought of what would happen if the office pool won and he was the only odd man out. The firm would shut down, and he would lose not only the winnings, but also his job! As he pulled up the driveway, he checked his pocket for a 20 dollar bill. What counsel would the apostle Paul have shared with Parker if the two sat down for dinner together that evening? How would that counsel be different from that of co-worker John?