

“All Eyes On Jesus”

1 Timothy 6:3-10

01/23/2021

OUTLINE

WELCOME:

(1 minute)

INTRO:

(1 minutes)

- **Illustration:** Importance of truth
 - **Q:** How important do you think truth is?
 - **Q:** Are you interested in knowing the truth?
 - **Q:** Is truth objective or subjective?
 - **Q:** Do you believe telling the full truth is important?
 - Paul outlines the importance of the Truth
 - **BECAUSE** → Imperative to follow Jesus

RECAP & CONTEXT:

(2 minutes)

- **Where we started:** Timothy to lead Church of Ephesus
 - Called to **PROCLAIM** the Gospel
 - Called to **GUARD** the Gospel
 - Called to **CELEBRATE** the Gospel
 - Called to **FIGHT** for the Gospel
- **Where we are going** (purpose for letter): Book Overview
 - Addressing different groups w/in the church
 - Reminder to live on guard b/c of false doctrine
 - A final exhortation to “fight the good fight”

- ****Reminder the Church is called to represent Jesus****
- **Where we are now: Current Situation**
 - Again, Paul warns of false teachers
 - Importance of sound teaching & faithful obedience
 - Contrasts **false teachers** to **godly leaders**
 - Reminder Jesus is Lord & our ultimate hope
 - Warning of distractions that lead to pain, suffering, & death
 - ****CONCLUSION → Keep your eyes on Jesus!**
- **Sermon Title: "All Eyes on Jesus"**

BIG IDEA:

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea: Jesus must hold Lordship of your life!**
 - Our aim must be *godliness*
 - (1) Requires knowing *the* Truth
 - (2) Requires inspecting our lives
 - (3) Requires faithful obedience

PRAY:

(1 minute)

READ:

(1 minute)

- **Text: 1 Timothy 6:2^b-10**

^{2b}Teach and encourage these things. ³If anyone teaches false doctrine and does not agree with the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching that promotes godliness, ⁴he is conceited and understands nothing, but has an

*unhealthy interest in disputes and arguments over words. From these come envy, quarreling, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant disagreement among people whose minds are depraved and deprived of the truth, who imagine that godliness is a way to material gain. ⁶ **But godliness with contentment is great gain.** ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. ⁸ If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

PREVIEW:

(1 minute)

- **Main Points:**

- 1 – **Invest in God's Word** (v.3-5)
- 2 – **Jesus is enough** (v.6-8)
- 3 – **Avoid distractions** (v.9-10)

PILLAR 1: **Invest in God's Word** (v.3-5)

(12 minutes)

^{2b}Teach and encourage these things. ³ If anyone teaches false doctrine and does not agree with the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching that promotes godliness, ⁴ he is conceited and understands nothing, but has an unhealthy interest in disputes and arguments over words. From these come envy, quarreling, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant disagreement among people whose minds are depraved and deprived of the truth, who imagine that godliness is a way to material gain.

(v.3)

- Truth is black and white
 - **Teaching** false doctrine = WRONG
 - **Disagreeing** w/ sound doctrine = WRONG

- **SOUND** doctrine ≠ **FALSE** doctrine
 - Truth is either **ALL** true or **NOT** true at all
 - No such thing as “a half-truth” or “my truth”
- We must know what *the* Truth is
- The Litmus Test to establish Truth
 - Defining truth
 - **NOT** subjective
 - **IS** objective
 - Truth is truth → it exists!
 - ****Truth ≠ Opinion**
 - Acknowledge where Truth comes from (authority)
 - **Jesus** → *“the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ...”*
 - **The Bible** → *“...and w/ the teaching that promotes godliness.”*
 - *“the teaching”* = God’s Word
 - Understanding these authorities...
 - **(1) Jesus**
 - **John 1:1,14** → *“¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

- (2) Bible / God's Word
 - **2 Tim. 3:16-17** → *"¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*
- Clear warning about false doctrine & teaching (v.3-5)
 - (v.3) → *"IF anyone..."*
 - No one is above God's Word
 - No one can alter God's Word
 - God's Word **IS** the authority & standard
 - (v.3) → *"...teaches false doctrine OR does not agree with the sound teaching"*
 - Teach False Doctrine = Promote & apply contrary beliefs
 - Not agree w/ Sound Teaching = Cherry-pick portions of Scripture you like or dislike
 - ****Reveals it's not just about your actions, BUT also your heart (beliefs & feelings)**
 - (v.3) → *"...that promotes godliness..."*
 - ****Scripture reveals God's Word, will, & way**
→ Promotes godliness
 - **THEREFORE** → Teaching against or disagreeing w/ God is *always* wrong

(v.4-5)

- Disregarding Truth leads to destruction
 - (v.4) → “...he is **conceited and understands nothing, but has an unhealthy interest in disputes and arguments over words...**”
 - Turning away from God’s Word reveals:
 - Ignorance at best
 - Maliciousness at worst
 - Reminder of Paul’s warning in 1 Tim. 1:3-7
 - Beware False Teachers
 - Redirect Christians
 - False Teachers are foolish
 - ****Reiteration emphasizes importance** → The Bookends emphasize content of letter
 - (v.4-5) → “**From these come envy, quarreling, slander, evil suspicions, and constant disagreement among people whose minds are depraved and deprived of the truth...**”
 - Results are antithetical to Christian witness
 - Disobeying God’s Word leads to pain & suffering
 - Produces negative attributes & results
 - ****Opposite of qualifications for overseers** → (1 Tim. 3:1-7)

- No one should lead w/ influence if they do not qualify
 - **THEREFORE** → God's Word + God's Qualifications matter!
- (v.5) → "...who imagine that godliness is a way to material gain."
 - Claim Jesus **BUT** only focus on self
 - All about what they can get & gain
 - *"Periodical godliness is perpetual hypocrisy."*
— Charles Spurgeon
 - Reveals a work-based religion
 - **BELIEF** → It's all about me
 - ****Marginalizes Jesus' sufficiency & purpose**
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Liberty U. CFAW Warning
 - Purpose of College for A Weekend (CFAW) is to show LU off to potential students
 - Every CFAW staff/faculty give funny warning to H.S. girls
 - Tell girls to watch out for charming college boys who play guitar and sing about Jesus
 - Tell girls they are sweet talkers, but to stand clear
 - Tell girls to heed warning & not be charmed by them
- **APPLICATION:**
 - Be on guard of sweet talkers & keep eyes on Jesus
 - Look to God's Word for direction
 - Requires *investing* in God's Word

- Requires *knowing* God's Word
- **Q:** Why is this so important to acknowledge?
- **A:** Because... (D.A. Carson quote)

“People do not drift toward Holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. [Instead] We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.” — D.A. Carson

- ****Christians must remember the Bible reveals God's Word, Will, & Ways**
 - We either believe this or we do not
 - If **YES** → Will directly impact our lives
 - If **NO** → Will influence life when convenient
- **Q:** What are YOU rooted in?
 - **Q:** Are you looking to God's Word & remaining obedient, or are you cherry-picking what you like and disregarding the rest?
- **Q:** Who are humans, the created beings, to disagree & disobey God, *the creator*!?

PILLAR 2: Jesus is enough (v.6-8)

(10 minutes)

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. ⁸ If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

(v.6)

- Result of the Christian life
 - (1) Godliness: Becoming like Christ (*sanctification*)
 - (2) Contentment: Fulfillment in Christ (*joy*)
- Contrast between worldliness & godliness
 - “**⁶BUT** godliness **WITH** contentment is great gain.”
 - ****Godliness w/ contentment is the goal!**
 - “**But**” = Opposite the world
 - (v.5) → “*people whose minds are depraved and deprived of truth, who imagine that godliness is a way to material gain*”
 - “**With**” = Requires Godliness + Contentment
 - “**Great Gain**” = Joy of belonging to Jesus
 - J.I. Packer explains... (*quote below*)

*“God has spoken to man, and the Bible is his Word, given to us to make us wise unto salvation... **Godliness means responding to God's revelation in trust and obedience, faith and worship, prayer and praise, submission and service. Life must be seen and lived in the light of God's Word. This, and nothing else, is true religion.**” — J.I. Packer*

(v.7)

- Paul Emphasizes importance of the Truth + Obedience
 - **Emphasizes** → BIG Creator > little creation

- Paul reminds humans of this point in v.7
- (v.7) → “*For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out.*”
 - “**For**” = The rationale / reminder
 - “**We**” = Message applies to ALL people
 - “**Nothing in/out of world**” = (see below)
 - (1) Humans are limited (*abilities*)
 - (2) Humans are mortal (*death*)

(v.8)

- (v.8) → “*If we have food & clothing, we will be content with these.*”
 - **WHY** → B/c Christ is enough!
 - Jesus provides what we *need* when we follow him!
 - **Matthew 6:33-34** (*below*)

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. ³⁴ Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- **Romans 8:28** (*below*)

²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

- **Philippians 4:12-13** (*below*)

*¹² I, [Paul], know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have **learned the secret of being content**—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. ¹³ **I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.***

- “Contentment” Defined: (NASB commentary)

Paul used the term to refer to an attitude of mind independent of externals and dependent only on God. He was not advocating godless self-sufficiency as a source of contentment. Paul believed that true sufficiency is Christ-sufficiency

- ****Contentment = opposite of greed**

- **ILLUSTRATION:** [Egyptian Pharaohs/Pyramids](#)

- Netflix doc. about Egyptian pyramid/tomb
- Tomb emphasized how great pharaoh was
- Pharaoh buried w/ all his belongs + family
- Believed belongings were needed in after life
- ****Pharaoh’s Hope was placed in what he needed**
- ****BUT → The Christian hope is placed in what we have**

- **CONCLUSION:** *(see below)*
 - Faith + Obedience + Grace = Contentment
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** Are you pursuing & listening to Jesus?
 - **Q:** Are you trusting His Word, will, & way(s)?
 - **Q:** Are you **CONTENT** in Him, or are you trying to find happiness & peace (or numbness) thru other means?

PILLAR 3: Avoid distractions (v.9-10)

(10 minutes)

(v.9-10)

- Another Warning given
 - *“⁹But those **who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin & destruction.** ¹⁰**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith & pierced themselves with many griefs.**”*
 - **CONTEXT:** False Teachers & greed
 - False Teachers in Ephesus made money off selling idols & false religion(s)
 - Paul nearly beat to death b/c Christianity hurt their profits
 - Many people stopped buying idols & turned to Jesus
- Priorities dictate our actions

- Jesus & Paul always ask question of the heart:
 - **Q: “WHAT DO YOU WANT?”**
 - Jesus asks the RYR: *Do you want me, or do you want your idol?*
 - Jesus’ warns crowd: **Matt. 7:21-23**

*²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ ²³ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. **Depart from me, you lawbreakers!**’*

- ******Your desires dictate your actions
 - Christian author, Jerry Bridges, once said:

“Every day that we're not practicing godliness we're being conformed to the world of ungodliness around us.”
 - **THEREFORE** → Paul addresses our “practices” & desires
 - Paul specifically addresses money
 - Money is **NOT** the root of all evil

- **BUT** → money often becomes a hinderance when it is main focus of one's life
 - (v.10) → "*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.*"
 - ****Anything that takes priority over Jesus in our lives is wrong**
 - There can only be 1 Lord of your life
 - **THIS IS WHY** → **The Big Idea = "Jesus must hold Lordship of your life!"**
 - **AGAIN** → We must grow in godliness & find contentment in Jesus!
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Steve Prefontaine (Runner)
 - Steve Prefontaine was an American long-distance runner
 - He set several running world-records & was in the Olympics
 - Steve was once asked why he trained so hard...
 - ******He replied: "*To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.*"
 - **THEREFORE** → Don't waste the gift; keep your eyes on Christ & His Word.
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** What is impacting the decisions you make?
 - **Q:** What are your eyes, heart, & priorities focused on?
 - **A:** You cannot serve two masters / idols

- **Q:** ******Do you realize if you take your eyes off Jesus, you **WILL** “*plunge yourself into ruin and destruction*”?
 - **A:** If not in this life, the next!

REITERATE BIG IDEA & MAIN POINTS:

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea:** Jesus must hold Lordship of your life!
- **Main Points:**
 - 1 – **Invest in God’s Word** (v.3-5)
 - 2 – **Jesus is enough** (v.6-8)
 - 3 – **Avoid distractions** (v.9-10)

CLOSE / PRAY:

(2 minutes)