GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT

I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

These Are the Things You Are to Teach and Insist on

I Timothy 6:2d These are the things you are to teach and insist on.

I Timothy 4:11 Command and teach these things.

Both verses probably refer to the previous teaching, although some would understand them to refer to the teaching that follows. Most likely, the instruction in I Timothy 6:2 refers to the teaching between 4:11 and 6:2, which is primarily about caring for widows and instructions about Elders.

The Connection Between Bad Teaching and Bad Character

I Timothy 6:3-5 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

I Timothy 1:3&4 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work – which is by faith.

I Timothy 1:5-7 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

People who reject sound teaching are “conceited and understand nothing.” They have “an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words.”

What such teaching leads to is “constant friction.”

The All-to-Frequent Motivation for Such Teachers

I Timothy 6:5b people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

2 Peter 2:14b-16 they are experts in greed – an accursed brood! They have left the right way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey – an animal without speech – who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness.

Jude 11 Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam’s error; they have been destroyed in Korah’s rebellion.

Revelation 2:14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.”

Matthew 8:20 Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

Godliness with Contentment is Great Gain

I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Philippians 4:11-13 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

I Timothy 6:7&8 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Luke 16:9 “I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The word translated “clothing” is literally “covering” and includes both shelter and clothing.

Those Who Want to Get Rich

I Timothy 6:9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

The context would seem to indicate that Paul especially has in mind those who want to get rich through “godliness” (verse 6).

Luke 6:20&21a Looking at his disciples, he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.

Luke 6:24&25a “But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.”

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

I Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Matthew 13:22 “The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.”

Ephesians 4:28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Things to Remember

People who reject sound teaching do so because of major character flaws.

False teaching leads not to loving relationships but to “constant friction.”

One of the motivations that drives false teaching is the desire to make money from religion (“godliness”).

Such people are far more like Balaam than Jesus.

Godliness with contentment is incredibly valuable.

The LOVE of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

You cannot serve God and money.

We should desire to work hard enough to have something to share with those in need.