



Sunday, February 14, 2021
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to 1 Timothy 6

Sometimes when it comes to interpreting the Bible, we must be very careful that we do not presume that the Scriptures are speaking directly to us. This could be a promise made under the Old Covenant to the people of Israel that does not have an exact parallel for us who are in Christ under the New Covenant. It could be a scenario that simply doesn't translate culturally for one reason or another. But in this passage, we find ourselves mentioned explicitly in the text.

As Americans in the 21st century, we are “the rich in this present age.” As Pastor Don noted, even those of us who have relatively little compared to other Americans have more resources at our disposal than most people in the world across most of history have had. So, we ought to heed Paul's words to us all the more carefully since he is speaking directly to our experience.

Not only that, but he is also writing to caution “those who desire to be rich.” Sadly, this is most of us as well. Most people in the world are not content with the money they have. The foundational root cause for this discontentment is avarice or greed (as Pastor Don explained). But avarice and greed are simply good desires that have been twisted and perverted to serve selfish ends. We must be careful of this.

Context

Paul begins this section by urging that Timothy, one of the elders of the church in Ephesus, pass on the teachings with urgency. He says this because, as he says a couple of chapters earlier, that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. Most of us would not like to think of greed and avarice as demonic teachings, but given the context, that seems to be what Paul is saying here.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 1 Timothy 6:2-12, 17-19

Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith.

Those who want to be rich (9)

- Contentment is great gain
- You can't take it with you
- Avarice brings great loss

Those who are already rich (17)

- You must not be arrogant about it
- You must not trust in it
- You are free to enjoy it
- You must share it

You can't take it with you, but you can send it ahead of you!

Discuss

- 1) Why do you think most people in the world want more money?

- 2) What are some ways people might be tempted to abandon the faith for the sake of getting more money?

- 3) If you received a check for \$1 million tomorrow, what would you do with that money?

- 4) How are the priorities you just expressed reflected in how you budget your current income?

- 5) What does it look like for someone to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share?