

by John Fox

Text: 1 Timothy 6:2b-10**Title:** Renewed Money**Shaft:** Paul calls Timothy to teach and urge the Ephesians in the way of sound doctrine, especially about money.**Main Point:** We need a renewed understanding of money in relation to the gospel.

Why?

- 1) We need instruction about money
- 2) We need to know our functional doctrine of money
- 3) We need to use money to get life

INTRODUCTION

A. Series Recap

In this sermon series we have been looking at how the gospel of Jesus Christ renews different aspects of our lives. This sermon marks a change into the final phase of the series. The first section was focused on personal renewal (minds, hearts, bodies), the second section was relational (marriage, dating, friendship, parenting), and this final phase will be more practical (money, work, community, serving, and others).

B. Hot Fries

My father was a Houston Firefighter. He also had vending machines at a number of fire stations in the Houston area. One of my responsibilities growing up was to make the rounds and stock the vending machines with him. It was a tortuous job as a kid because I handled hundreds of snacks but couldn't eat them. One of my favorite snacks was hot fries. They have zero nutritional value and taste like spicy styrofoam, but I still loved them. In high school I realized on a Sam's trip that I could buy them by the case! So, I did. In High School you would have seen me most days taking hot fries with me everywhere. I loved them so much I would pass them out like a king bestowing gifts to his subjects. I was filthy rich in hot fries and I loved it. Until, that is, I exhausted my supply and only had a few left. Then I kept them all to myself. Hot fries were my money.

C. Caveat & Main Point

I tell you that story because today's passage is on renewed money. Although humorous, I think we often act the same way. Today, I will address how we can deal with money in a renewed way. From today's passage we can draw out one main point with three truths that are necessary to having this renewed mindset of money.

Main Point: We need a renewed understanding of money in relation to the gospel.

1. We need instruction about money
2. We need to know our functional doctrine of money
3. We need to use money to get life

*NOTE- I cannot say everything about money in this sermon. There will be counterpoints you may have to some intense commands we see from Paul today, and we have to weigh those with other truths about living wisely.

1) We need instruction about money

Main Point: We need a renewed understanding of money in relation to the gospel.

1 Timothy 6:2b

13 “Teach and encourage these things.”

A. Teach and Urge

The Apostle Paul has loads of instruction that he is giving to Timothy in this small letter. And that was his purpose in writing the pastoral epistles- to instruct younger pastors to instruct others on how to live according to the gospel.

Why do we begin this passage with 6:2b? It's because Paul has been and will continue to focus on teaching godly truths, most of which are related to money. Your Bible version may have a section break at 6:2b and that is because many commentators agree that “**Didasko (teach) and parakeleo (encourage/urge) these things.**” is a connecting phrase to Paul's previous instruction (5:1-62a) and the present instruction (6:10). We see these two words used at the beginning of the letter as well.

1 Timothy 1:3,

3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

Didasko (teach) is a significant word here because out of the 20 times it is used in the pastoral epistles it is used 11 times in 1 Timothy. Paul is really driving home to Timothy that he has to teach, especially the hard stuff, to the people of God.

Moreover, Timothy is to teach and encourage/urge believers on to godliness with command. These verbs are in the imperative form which means he is not simply teaching facts. He is supposed to step into people's lives and tell them that they need/must, do these things and help them carry it out. The word **parakaleo (urge)** is a compound word that comes from two root words. **Para (by)** and **Keleo (to call out)**. This means that Paul is not simply armchair quarterbacking Timothy's life. No. He comes alongside him as he says the difficult thing to help him learn how to do it. And by extension, this is how Paul wants Timothy to lead others.

What has Paul taught and urged?

- How to instruct older men/women, younger men/women 5:1
- How widows should be treated and what they should be doing 5:3
- Provide financial support when Paul returns 5:4
- Provide for your family 5:8
- Qualifiers for widows receiving financial support 5:9
- How to think about and treat younger widows

- How a widow's family should care for her 5:16
- How to treat and compensate ministers of the gospel 5:18
- Rebuke people who persist in sin, publicly 5:20
- Don't prejudge or exhibit favoritism 5:21
- Have slaves obey and honor their masters 6:1

I think we would consider these "sensitive" things to talk about. They are all difficult conversations, but Paul is calling Timothy to jump into the tension with God's word and help people grow in godliness.

I wonder, do we have an attitude to be students to receive this kind of instruction? Even this morning, do you sense in yourself withdrawing from this truth? Let me remind us that as students (disciples) of Jesus we must be open to receiving instruction and encouragement in all areas of our lives. As Solomon said,

Ecclesiastes 4:13 "Better a poor but wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to heed a warning."

We must submit ourselves to God's teaching on money because in reality we are submitted, willingly or unwillingly, to false teaching about money and possessions every day of our lives.

Do you have people in your life as a believer that come alongside you to help you mature? Do you have people who will be gut level honest with you? I believe God has given us a beautiful picture of something to emulate in the relationship between Paul and Timothy to that effect.

2) We need to know our functional doctrine of money

Main Point: We need a renewed understanding of money in relation to the gospel.

1 Timothy 6:3-10

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. **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.

Second, we need to know what our functional doctrine of money is.

A. False Doctrine Behavior

We all have an operating doctrine of money. It may surprise you to think about money this way, but we exercise belief everytime that we spend money. We believe that the money will do something for us. And this is what marketing is all about, getting us to spend money on stuff we believe we need or want. In this section Paul gives us a picture of how someone behaves who teaches false doctrine. And he barely comes up for air in his explanation. The following are extrapolated examples of false and sound doctrine that I see from the text.

Examples of False and Sound Doctrine:

False Doctrine:

- I am right because I have money (v.4)
- I can tell people what to do because I have money (v.5a)
- I can leverage “godliness” for money (v.5b)
- Money is mine and it makes me better than others (v.17a)
- Money will protect me (v.17b)

Sound Doctrine:

- Godliness is worth more than money (v.6)
- We are not owed money (v.7a)
- We can’t take it with us (v.7b)
- We don’t *NEED* that much (v.8)
- Desiring money will destroy me (v.9)

John Piper Quote, “You will enter eternity with nothing but the measure of contentment that you had in God.”¹

B. False Doctrine Consequences

Money itself is not bad, of course. It is neutral. It is the love of money that is the root of all evil. Beyond demonstrating what false teaching looks like Paul also gives us a portrait of its final consequences. The two consequences are 1) wandering away from the faith and 2) piercing themselves with many griefs.

Many commentators believe that Paul is actually hinting at the story of Odysseus and the Sirens with the word “pierce.” In that story the great Odysseus had his men fill their ears with bee’s wax so they couldn’t hear the allure of the Siren’s song and be dashed on the rocks. But Odysseus was tied to the mast by his men to keep him from killing himself like so many other brave men. Here is what the Sirens sang,

Siren Song

*Odysseus, bravest of heroes,
Draw near to us, on our green island,
Odysseus, we’ll teach you wisdom,
We’ll give you love, sweeter than honey.
The songs we sing, soothe away sorrow,
And in our arms, you will be happy.
Odysseus, bravest of heroes,
The songs we sing, will bring you peace.*²

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/battling-the-unbelief-of-covetousness>

² Odysseus and the Sirens, The Odyssey.

Such is the allure of the love of money. But Paul also tells us of life that is truly life.

It may sting a bit to reflect on what functional doctrine we have about money. But that sting can also help us stay on course with a renewed money lifestyle. I have said this before, but I'm personally encouraged by how generous and kingdom-minded our church is. This is a great thing to celebrate as the watching world wonders how our doctrine is different from theirs.

3) We need to use money to get life

Main Point: We need a renewed understanding of money in relation to the gospel.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, 19 storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

The last point on renewed money comes in Paul's final words to Timothy about the rich.

A. Angelic Command

After Paul tells Timothy what False Teachers look like and the inevitable end of loving money, he tells him, flee these things! (v.11), and commends him to live a godly life. And as he closes he tells Timothy in an even stronger way to command the rich to behave in a certain way. There is no doubt of this. Paul uses another compound word, **paraggello (command/order)**, which is made up of **para (by)** and **aggelos (a messenger)**. This is the same word often used to describe angels announcing God's revelation to man. There is an angelic command for us to put our hope in God and not wealth, particularly for the rich.

B. Good Works

That is undoubtedly an uncomfortable truth for all of us, but there is one greater than that for me. Paul tells Timothy to teach people that they must be rich in good works, thereby storing up treasure in heaven, SO THAT they may take hold of life. That sounds to me like Paul is saying good works are necessary for taking hold of life (Jesus). We might be tempted to think that it is works-based salvation. It's not.

It would be untrue to say, "We must do good works so that we can buy our way into heaven." But it would be equally untrue of us to say, "I don't need good works to get into heaven." This is a tension that Paul will not let us escape. Thankfully, we see this renewed understanding of goodworks in Jesus.

C. Jesus

All of earth's goods wouldn't be worth one heavenly apple, yet Jesus gave up the riches of heaven. Jesus was more wealthy than we could imagine, and he condescended to be born around smelly animals in a stable. And though taking on humanity Jesus at any point could have lived in opulence as the Son of God decided to live in obscurity and poverty. We know this because when his family went to the Temple to offer sacrifice they offered the poor people's class of offering, two turtle doves (Luke 2:24)

Jesus also had nowhere to lay his head (Matt. 8:20), be financially supported by women (Luke 8:3), and when asked for taxes told Peter to go fishing to pull out a coin (Matt. 17:27)! All these examples and more show us that Jesus never bowed the knee to temptation to the love of money, even when Satan offered him the world and all its riches (Matt. 4:8-9). Why? Jesus's view of money was to use it to get life with God, not in the fleeting comforts of the world. Jesus Himself went ahead of us in good works, greater than anyone could ever accomplish. In fact, it is because of His good work that we who believe in Him are made eternally rich.

This is amazing news for us because we are all horrible spiritually poor. The wealthiest people in this world are just as indebted to God's just punishment for their sins as you and I are. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus paid our debt of sin on the cross, when he suffered, bled, and died. But better even than that, he rose making us co-heirs with him showering on us who believe in him the riches of fellowship with him forever. That is real life!

So often we use money to get a fragile version of life, but it can be shattered at any second. Rather than setting our hope on riches we must set our hope on Jesus who purchased us for himself. A renewed understanding of money in relation to the gospel teaches us that money is valuable for good works to demonstrate how glorious God is in Christ.

APPLICATION

1. Instruct/urge a fellow believer on their use of money
2. Give away some money (rethink tithe, give to foster care, etc.)
3. Consider if you are truly "taking hold of life."

EXTRA SERMON INFORMATION

Sermon Description

Gospel renewal touches on every area of our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. Especially when it comes to money. In this sermon Pastor John preaches on Paul's earnest instruction to seek contentment instead of earthly riches and lay ahold of what is truly life.

Slides

- **Main Point:** We need a renewed understanding of money in relation to the gospel.
- 1) We need instruction about money
- 2) We need to know our functional doctrine of money
- 3) We need to use money to get a contented life
- Point 1- We need instruction about money
- 1 Timothy 6:2b, "Teach and encourage these things."
- 1 Timothy 1:3, "As I **urged** you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to **teach** strange doctrines,"
- Two important words: didasko (teach), parakaleo (urge)
- Ecclesiastes 4:13 "Better a poor but wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to heed a warning."
- Point 2- We need to know our functional doctrine of money
- 1 Timothy 6:3-10
- Examples of Money Doctrine:
 - False Doctrine:
 - I am right because I have money (v.4)
 - I can tell people what to do because I have money (v.5a)
 - I can leverage "godliness" for money (v.5b)
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 - Desiring money will destroy me (v.9)
- John Piper Quote, "You will enter eternity with nothing but the measure of contentment that you had in God."³
- Siren Song
 - Odysseus, bravest of heroes,
 - Draw near to us, on our green island,
 - Odysseus, we'll teach you wisdom,
 - We'll give you love, sweeter than honey.
 - The songs we sing, soothe away sorrow,
 - And in our arms, you will be happy.
 - Odysseus, bravest of heroes,
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³ <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/battling-the-unbelief-of-covetousness>

⁴ Odysseus and the Sirens, The Odyssey.

- Point 3- We need to use money to get a contented life
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- Application
 - 1. Instruct/urge a fellow believer on their use of money
 - 2. Give away some money (rethink tithe, give to foster care, etc.)
 - 3. Consider if you are truly “taking hold of life.”

Discussion Questions:

1. This passage begins with the reality that we all need to be taught about money. What is your gut-level response to this reality?
2. What are some examples of your functional doctrine of money? What should they be?
3. What are the consequences of pursuing a love of money? How have you seen this play out with friends or family?
4. Ironically, Paul urges the rich to use their money for good works so that they might “grab hold of what is truly life.” (6:19). What kinds of good works do you believe the Holy Spirit is leading you to do?

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that God would make our church full of people who are eager and willing to receive His instruction, even instruction on money.
2. Pray that God would remove any root of a love of money in your life, even if you don't believe it's there.
3. Pray that God would grant you new realizations of Christ's riches poured out for you.

Extra Material

- Example: Some denominations expect expensive material gifts for pastors (cars, boats, etc.)
- Jeremiah Burrows The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment