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| 1  1 Timothy 6:6-10 Sermon Outline  04/14/24  “The Cure For Inordinate Love”  INTRO:  C.S. Lewis = Screwtape Letters  Very interesting/disturbing book = series of letters  Screwtape to nephew Wormwood  Different ways to deceive and plunge humanity into hell  Screwtape knows freedom + reality = present and in eternity  Eternity = meditate on eternal union of Him, or separation from Him, or else  “obeying the present voice of conscience, bearing the present cross, receiving the present grace, giving thanks for the present pleasure.” | 2  Screwtape goes on:  “nearly all vices are rooted in the future. Gratitude looks to the past and love to the present but fear, avarice, lust and ambition look ahead”  Very interesting observation on gratitude + contentment = I think it’s a true observation  MAIN POINT:  The only way you can have biblical contentment is when you are focused on eternity and you are thankful and satisfied with what God gives you today in the present.  That is the cure for inordinate love, that when you fix your eyes on eternity it leads you to have a thankful heart whatever you experience in the present.  BODY:  Last week we looked at 1 Timothy 6:1-5 = Paul brings up last time false teachers |
| 3  Ch. 1 = wrong use of Law  Ch. 4 = source of teachings that is demonic/ further details on law  Ch. 6 = motive of teaching and consequences  False teachers = inordinate love for money  Affections are misplaced,  When you substitute anything or anyone for God Himself = idolatry  Inordinate love for God = more deadly disease than anything else physically  It can ruin your life if you are not careful  Root cause = sinful hearts Jer. 17 = “deceitful and desperately sick”  They need to see the Great Physician Jesus Christ who alone can prescribe + administer cure  Ended sermon with taste of cure, not today is full cure | 4  My prayer and hope is that you will taste fully this cure, this balm for your souls  V. 6 “*But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment*.”  “you know, you think godliness will gain you something…and in some sense you are right!  But not gaining what you think  Godliness gains you eternal joy and peace  Money = temporary help in this life  Godliness = heavenly currency = true and lasting delight in relationship with the Lord  Contentment = *autarkeias* = idea of sufficiency  Greek philosophers of Paul’s day used this word to declare self-sufficiency = crowning virtue |
| 5  Money = double-edged sword = to depend on money for everything  Which most likely to go to the Lord to depend on Him?  All money in world or when you needy?  (now you should trust in Lord regardless)  But that’s why Bible warns against accumulating treasures = more likely to draw heart away  Luke 12:15  *“Watch out and be on your guard against every form of greed, for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions*.”  Solomon = all riches in world Prov. 11:28  “*He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.*” | 6  But Paul instead used word to describe self-sufficiency in Christ  Paul = example of godliness + contentment  Paul = tough life  Moments of abundance + sorrow  starving/shipwrecked/beaten with rods  But what did he say?  Phil. 4:12-13?  “*I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in abundance; in any and all things I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*”  But why need contentment + godliness? |
| 7  V. 7 “*we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either*.”  Born naked into world  Absolutely dependent on our parents for everything  You did not contribute anything to your existence  You came into existence by power of Word of God through process of procreation  In same way you entered world, exist world  Possible allusion: Job 1:21  “*naked I came from my mother’s womb, naked I shall depart*.”  V. 8  “*If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content*.” | 8  Food/clothing/shelter = what humanity needs to survive  God cares for everyone = including those who reject Him = common grace  common grace = blesses humanity = food/clothing/fellowship/nature  Scriptures = “God gives rain to the just and unjust”  “Causes sun to rise on good and evil”  God especially promises to provide for His own children who believe in Him  But it’s so easy right to not be content in our culture?  Economy = depends greed  Consumer culture = biggest, baddest, coolest, etc.  ILLUST: = newest iphone get this one! |
| 9  Average American = made ancient kings look poor  We just need basic necessities  Prov. 30:8-9  “*Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, Lest I be full and deny You and say, “Who is Yahweh? Or lest I be impoverished and steal, And profane the name of my God*.”  Hook of marketing = make you feel discontent  Draw you away from focusing on present and into future  Remember what Screwtape said?  “Focus them away from present and eternity into future”  It’s all about what you could potentially have | 10  Or what you potentially might not have = anxiety  Jesus spoke to this later deception  Matt. 6:25-34  “*For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single cubit to his life span?**And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not to il nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!* |
| 11  *Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing? For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*  Jesus = trying to get you to focus = present = each day as a gift  Present = “Am I really right with the Lord?” You start to examine your life to see what you are really living for  Society conditioned us to look to next new thing  But the cure to anxiety is to see that you are created by heavenly Father  And can genuinely enjoy each day as gift from Lord | 12  Solomon in fact Ecclesiastes 9  We cannot control time and how our lives turn out because God intended it that way, we can contented lives day by day  Ecclesiastes 9:7-9  **“***Go then, eat your bread in gladness and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already accepted your works. Let your clothes be white all the time, and let not oil be lacking on your head. See life with the woman whom you love all the days of your vain life, which He has given to you under the sun—all the days of your vanity; for this is your portion in life and in your labor in which you have labored under the sun*.”  What are consequences not being content with what you have?  Well, for false teachers v. 9 |
| 13  “*But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction*.”  The end result is ruin and destruction  As James says, it starts with inordinate desire – sin – when fully developed = death  Imagery = nautical = desire to get rich = like iceberg that will hit your ship/plunge = icy cold depths ocean floor  Scripture = examples = desire to get rich  Achan  Judas = 30 pieces of silver  Ananias and Saphira  Demas = abandoned Paul for world  All plunged to depths by their sin and has drowned as result | 14  V. 10 “*For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils, and some by aspiring to it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”*  Phrase “love of money” lit. = “affection for silver”  Money itself is not evil, but “love of money”  Money = neutral  Can be used for good or bad  How money is used reflects heart of its owner  Graphic illustration  Wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs  That word for aspire = 1 Timothy 3:1  Except opposite = consumed with evil passionate desire |
| 15  Like planet wandering around in space = fall out of orbit and wander away into oblivion…piercing themselves with many griefs/pains  *apoplano* = planet  Like bear caught in bear trap  metal claws of greed sink teeth in victim  Life of self-indulgence only brings it with it pain and misery  In fact, love of money can lead to 10 commandments  1 + 2 = worshipping god of mammon instead of Yahweh, hence committing idolatry  3 cursing God’s name in vain when you lose money (maybe at a slot machine?)  4. Sabbath: Too busy to make time with Lord | 16  5. Dishonoring father and mother for money/inheritance  6. Murdering people for money  7. Committing adultery/divorcing for money!  8. People steal for money! Robbery, theft  9. People lie for money  10. People covet money!  Psalm 32:10  “*many are the sorrows of the wicked*”  The cure for inordinate love is to not only set your gaze on the present to be thankful for your allotment in life today, but to set your gaze on eternity  More you have in mind earth = not permanent home, but that heaven is, the less you would cling to the things of this earth, to stuff, to possession |
| 17  Alexander the Great, the great war conqueror, said before his death “When I am dead, carry forth on my bier, with my hands not wrapped in cloth, but laid outside, so that all may see that they are empty.”  Phil. 3:20  “*our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*”  Colossians 3:1-4  *“Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.”*  Jesus Christ says in Mark 8:36 “*For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”* | 18  In Mark 10,  A man ran up to our Lord Jesus Christ and he asked  “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”  And Jesus said “you know the commandments…  “DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not fraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER  And he said to Him, “I have kept all these things from my youth”  And how does Jesus respond to him  V. 21 “And looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”  And he went away grieving, because he owned much property |
| 19  Don’t be like the rich young ruler who chose his rotting and moth eaten possessions over the most priceless treasure that will never ever fade away  You don’t need to purchase anything for your eternal life  because Jesus Christ purchased your salvation by His sacrifice on the cross for your sins  Don’t walk away from the greatest investment that anyone can ever make  Invest in Jesus, bank your life in Jesus, He is sufficient for life and death,  He is enough  Let’s pray | 20 |