

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



I Timothy Part-7 (chapter 6) KJV

2.21.2024

6:1-12

FLEE & FOLLOW

SLAVES (1-2): When can slavery be practiced within Church? Can a person be slave at home and master at church?

TRUE & FALSE TEACHING (3-5): How can false teachers be identified? What is the fruit of true teaching and false teaching? Why is the world attracted to false teaching?

ILLUSION OF MONEY (6-10): What are the dangers of a greedy heart? What is more profitable? Is it possible to be content?

FLEE & FOLLOW (11-12): What must believers flee and what must they follow? What must we defend?

Slaves (1-2)

When can slavery be
practiced within Church?
Can a person be slave at
home and master at church?

Slaves

¹ Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

² And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

Duty of slaves/servants

Slavery practiced in both Old and New Testament, but Bible does not condone slavery.

NT: Slavery common in Roman empire during those times

OT: Slavery in exchange of debt repayment, war prisoners

Duty of slaves/servants

Slaves must honor their masters and do their work
(even if master is a believer and part of the local church).

Duty of slaves/servants in church setting

EQUALITY IN CHURCH: Maybe slaves at home, but In church setting, no slave-master hierarchical relationship. All are equal in church but may have different roles as per God's divine order.

LEADERSHIP ROLES MAYBE REVERSED IN CHURCH: It is possible that the slave maybe an elder in church while his master has no leadership role. If so, the master must submit to the slave in a church setting.

Be an
exemplary
slave!

COLOSSIANS 3: 22-24

²²Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; ²³ And whatsoever ye do, **do it heartily, as to the Lord**, and not unto men; ²⁴ Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

We must have good work ethics (regardless of our boss & work environment)

True and False Teaching (3-5)

How can false teachers be identified? What is the fruit of true teaching and false teaching? Why is the world attracted to false teaching?

True and False Teaching

³ If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; ⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

True versus False Teachers

TRUE TEACHING

- Words of Lord Jesus Christ
- Wholesome words (3)
- Sound doctrine
 - Fruit of true teaching: Inspires salvation, godliness, purity, love, profitable (II Timothy 3:16)

TRUE TEACHING is rejected in this world because it demands making changes to our sinful lifestyle and to walk on the narrow road.

True versus False Teachers

whereof cometh envy, strife, railings,
evil surmisings, ⁵ Perverse disputings
of men of corrupt minds, and
destitute of the truth, supposing that
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FALSE TEACHING

- Focus on self (that is, teacher)
- Focus on impressing crowd rather than glorifying God
- Focus on pleasing people rather than obeying God
- Focus on intellectual debates and questions ... not waiting for revelation & truth from God
- False teachers are proud and ignorant
 - Fruit of false teachings: envy, strife, corruption, compromises (4-5)

False teachings are popular as it gives freedom to sin

False teachers preach prosperity gospel

How to identify false teachers?

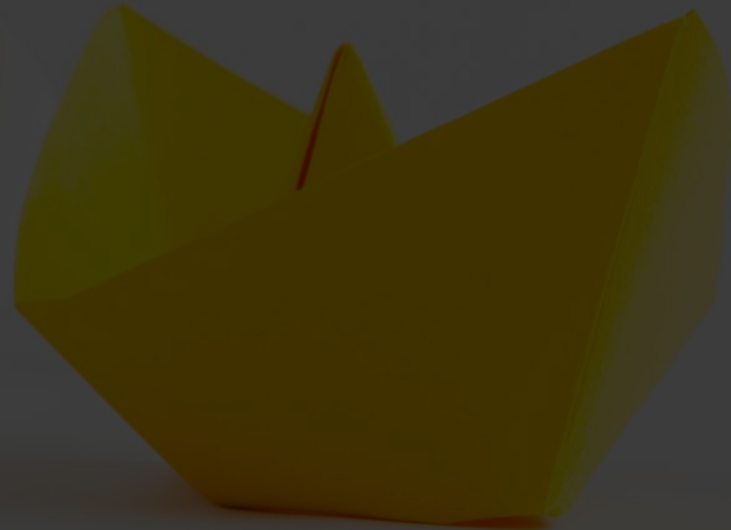
Not always easy

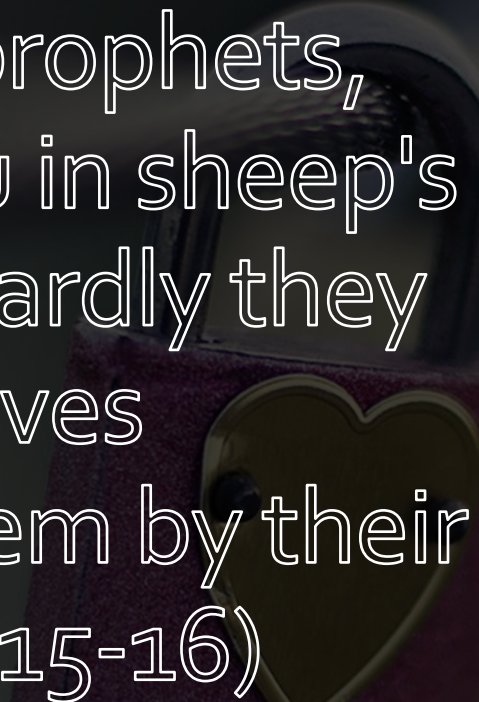
First False Teacher

satan (Genesis 3:1-5)

Today's false teachers use the same strategy of satan:

deception,
diluting the truth, &
appealing to flesh





Beware of false prophets,
who come to you in sheep's
clothing, but inwardly they
are ravenous wolves
You will know them by their
fruits (Mathew 7:15-16)

External (visible): Sheep's clothing

Internal (invisible): Wolves

We cannot fully discern the unseen hearts of others, hence we must examine the visible fruits.

Some common false teachings

Focus on God's love (Heaven), and ignore God's Justice (Hell)

Deny virgin birth, death on the cross, resurrection, second coming

Need Faith + works to receive salvation

There are multiple ways to reach God

Since God forgives, it is okay to keep on sinning

Bible is not the complete revelation

Salvation can be lost

Prosperity gospel

... and more

II Peter 2, False teachers

Secretly infuse false teachings that destroys people (1)

Attract many and tarnish the testimony of church (2)

Use deceptive words (3)

Deceive others/themselves (13)

Full of adultery and covetousness (14)

Sin of Balaam (leading others astray) (15)

Ineffective – wells without water/clouds without rain (17)

Words that appeal to flesh, rather than spirit (18)

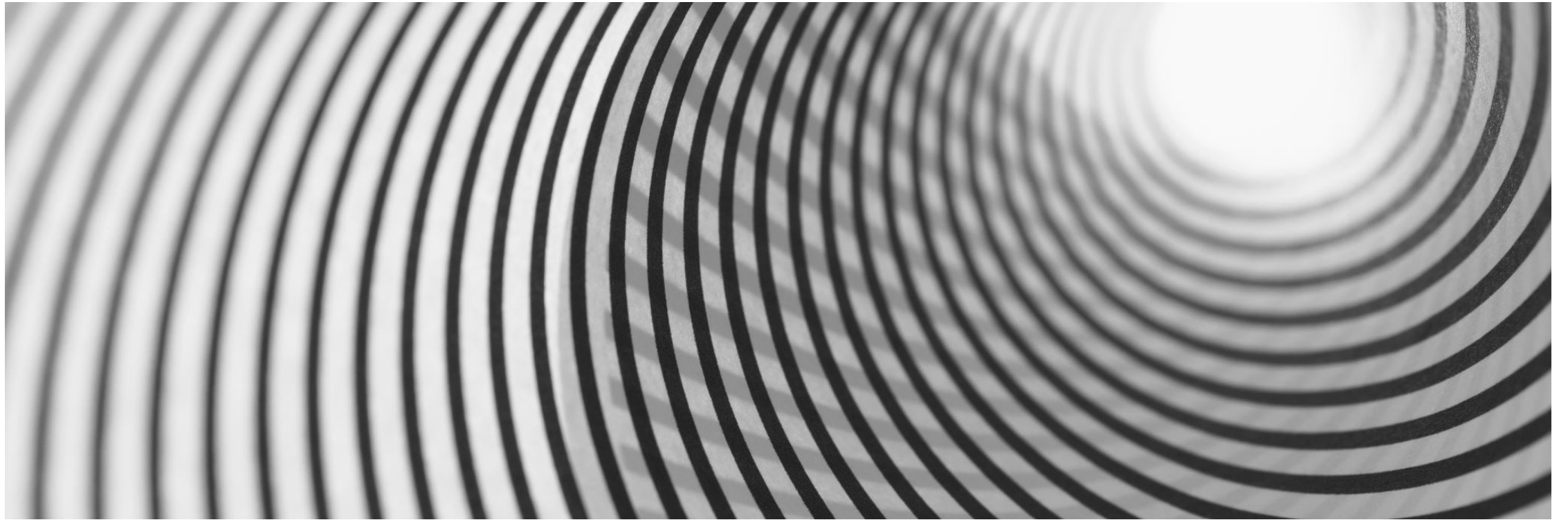
Preach freedom, but are themselves slaves to sin (19)

How to respond to false teachers?

5 from such
withdraw thyself.

RUN AWAY!

(some believers may be **called to stay** and challenge false teachers, or convert them to the truth ... but most of us, must run away!)



Illusion of money (6-10)

What are the dangers of a greedy heart? What is more profitable? Is it possible to be content?

Illusion of Money

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain.

⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Being Rich is not a sin.

Many God's children are/were wealthy

I Chronicles 29:28 (David's end) ... "he died at a good old age, full of days, **riches** and honor"

It is not 'riches' but the 'love of riches', which is a sin.

**Godliness
with
contentment
is great gain**

False teachers emphasize material, temporal wealth

True teachers emphasize spiritual, eternal riches

Godliness + Contentment is a great blessing

Contentment ... Is it possible?

Contentment is not easy and rarely seen in this world! ...
poor want to be rich, and rich want to be richer!

How to be content? FOCUS & PRIORITIZE LIFE DECISIONS

- Focus on what you need and not on what you want
- Focus on yourself, not your friends and neighbors
- Focus on pleasing God, not people
- Focus on being thankful for what you have (and not complaining about what you don't)
- Focus on finding fullness/completion in Christ
- Focus on eternal riches

Reality of life

We brought nothing into this world, and we will carry nothing out.

Yet sadly we are busy accumulating!

We are trading eternal riches for temporal riches!

(like Esau selling his birthright for a bowl of soup, Genesis 25:31-32

or rich young man refusing to part with his earthly possessions, Mark 10:21)

Dangers of a greedy heart and love for riches

- Breaks the 10th commandment “do not covet”
- **It is the ‘root’ of many evils** (corruption, jealousy, theft, murder, dishonesty, selfish, workaholics, etc). If the root is flawed, our entire system will be flawed!

Ultimate fruit of a greedy heart:

Many regrets, sorrows & stress,

and not sleep & satisfaction that you hoped for!

(these undesirable outcomes arise because ‘love of money’ is the **root** of all evils ... to fix the problem, root must be uprooted)

Flee and Follow (11-12)

What must believers flee and what must they follow?
What must we defend?

Flee & Follow

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

What must believers FLEE?

- False teachings (6)
- Greed for more and love of money (10)

What must believers pursue?

We must pursue

- Righteousness (right relationship with God)
- Godliness (God like character)
- Faith (faithfulness)
- Love (pure love towards God and people)
- Patience
- Meekness (humility)

Fight the good fight of faith

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

We must fight for our faith and defend our faith

Gospel and sound doctrine is worth defending!



Flee & Follow (I Timothy)

Put off and Put on
(Colossians)

Put off

COLOSSIANS 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

- anger
- Wrath
- malice
- slander or blasphemy
- filthy language
- lies

Put on

COLOSSIANS 3: ¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. ¹⁴ And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Forbearing
- Forgiveness
- Above all, Love ... Love is the foundation

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