***Earthly Masters, Godliness, & Material Gain***

**1 Timothy 6:1-10 - April, 7, 2019**

*How would God want me to both understand and respond to these matters?*

**1 Timothy 6:1+2**

1) We're To Faithfully Honor Those Over Us, As We Respond With Dutiful Service

Today we're to look at this from the angle of earthly masters (in principle), namely, those who are over us in life - as generally speaking, employees are to be subordinate to their employers.

"*What about when our boss(es) are harsh?"* **1 Peter 2:18**

Some may think, *"I'm gonna' speak my voice and stand my ground in the workplace!"* **Titus 2:9**

Others may think, *"I'll only do as much as I need to in order to look the part!"*. **Colossians 3:22-25**

Remember that we are ambassadors.

*"The work of an ambassador is* ***incarnational; t****heir actions, character and words embody the King who isn't present."*

*"It is a lifestyle, as we represent God's purposes to the people He places in our lives; so the primary question on our mind should be:* ***'How can I best represent the King with this particular person?'"***

It's not just about what we do at church or in home groups, or with outreach and missions, but it's about your daily life!

**1 Timothy 6:3-5**

2) We Are To Understand The Use Of Pretence Regarding Godliness, While Exposing It

We see that the Church, through Jesus' teachings (Vs.3), is to both recognize and value the doctrine of godliness.

Jesus' teachings are essentially focused on godliness; one of their main purposes is to make us more like Him!

When people don't want to hear Jesus' words or apply them, or they think they are for someone else - then something is wrong.

Some will come across as followers of Jesus and yet their focus isn't on Him and His Word, but using godliness as a pretence for gain - whether it be financial, or control/power, or even for acquiring fans and followers; and the enemy loves it.

*"If you can just fill-up a person's head with a bunch of words, and human reason and philosophy, then you can confuse them about the simple truths of God's Word."* - Pastor John MacArthur

People will use godliness, lofty ideas and arguments (that may even sound biblical), in order to distort and deceive for some kind of gain.

Let's not only understand the use of pretence regarding godliness, but let's be sure to expose it - as this is what Paul was doing here.

3) When It Comes To Material Gain, We're To Understand That We Shouldn't Strive/Long For Or Love It But Rather, Be Content

Contentment in life is such an important mindset for the follower of Jesus.

Many people will condition themselves to pursue more stuff, space and greater satisfaction; and so they won't hear it from God's Word or His messenger.

Only He can ultimately satisfy. Yet even though many of us have experienced this, sometimes we allow the mirage of our circumstances to deceive us.

*"I'm sorry that you're 'under the circumstances'... The Lord would have us living above all circumstances, where He Himself can satisfy our hearts and meet our every need for time and eternity."*

Church, Christ is enough to satisfy the hearts of all who confide in Him - leaving everything in His hands.