

Life Group Notes 7/2/2023
Charlie Temple 1 Timothy 6

[If you have observations or questions feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net.-Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to facilitate discussion and to discern the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Charlie Temple has raised this week, 7/2. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** Do not be daunted by the number of pages. As an editorial decision, I include each of the passages mentioned in full to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes, rather than having you, the reader, look up each reference. If your Bible is open beside you, you can transfer and annotate from these pages with ease. This week has several footnotes on vocabulary, doctrines and principles of the church. Footnotes are not meant to distract, but enhance the reading, and to help find answers to questions that arise. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On Servants and Slaves](#)
2. [On the Prosperity Gospel](#)
3. [On godliness as a means of gain](#)
4. [On godliness. What is it?](#)

***Please **Note:** At the very end, I've included passages that were mentioned for SOAP journaling and further study during the week. ***

Charlie asks a question, "Are you ready?"

1. Are you ready to meet Jesus?
2. Are you where you ought to be?
3. Will He know you when He sees you?
4. Or will He say, "Depart from me, I never knew you?"

Charlie saw a sign on a repair shop that said, "God is a Miracleizer." Look up Psalm 77:14 You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. (NIV) **Why is the verb "performs" written in the present tense?** Charlie says,

“God is performing miracles as you sit in your seat today, and you need to believe this, that there is a miracle waiting for you today.”

1. Explain why this is important.
2. Why did the woman with the issue of blood, hemorrhaging for 12 years, leave her house to brave the crowds and touch the hem of Jesus’ robe?
3. Do you have a testimony?

Charlie tells the story of the birth of his sixth grandchild, which he describes as another miracle he and his wife, Kelly, were privileged to witness. ***Explain. Describe the reaction of the 20-month-old sister as the newborn miracle arrives home.*** Charlie says, “She was ready. She was watching at twenty months...We need to be like that.” ***Explain. If Grace Capital’s goal is to “get us ready” to meet Jesus face to face, what steps are necessary.***

Reject False Doctrines

3If anyone teaches another doctrine and disagrees with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and with godly teaching, **4**he is conceited and understands nothing. Instead, he has an unhealthy interest in controversies and semantics, out of which come envy, strife, abusive talk, evil suspicions, **5**and constant friction between men of depraved mind who are devoid of the truth. These men regard godliness as a means of gain.

1. Where would “another doctrine” come from? What is the sole standard of true doctrine? What is the best, really the only way to get to know true doctrine?
2. Who is the Teacher, sent to lead you into all truth (Review John 16:13)? How has He taught you? Do you have a testimony?
3. How tolerant is Paul toward those who debate and dispute?
4. Why doesn’t he choose kind, gentle words to describe those who start unhealthy arguments?
5. What is the fruit of such debates? Do you have a testimony?
6. What hope is there for “men of depraved mind, devoid of the truth?”
7. How can “godliness be a means of gain?” Do you have a testimony? [See footnote 3 below.](#)

Godliness with Contentment

6Of course, godliness with contentment is great gain. **7**For we brought nothing into the world, so we cannot carry anything out of it. **8**But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

9Those who want to be rich, however, fall into temptation and become ensnared by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. **10**For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. By craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1. Explain verse 6. Look at [footnote 4](#) below. What is godliness? What are the chief characteristics of godliness?
2. Think of this: though we brought nothing into this world when we came, we were brought into this world by our parents. What gain did they enjoy from this? How does this transform the idea of gain, and unite life and the gospel in rightful priority?

3. Have you ever brought someone to the Lord? How did that change heaven for all time? Why do the angels rejoice when one lost sheep is found?
4. What does contentment mean? Charlie says, "If you don't have the big house, the boat, etc., but your relationship with Jesus is intact, you are rich beyond measure." Explain.
5. Look at verse 9. What does "rich" mean? How many lawnmowers does it take to be rich? Do you have a testimony?
6. Look at verse 10. This verse is often misquoted as "Money is the root of all evil." Why is "money" not the root, but the "love of money" is? Who is your god when money is your first love? See [footnote 2](#) on the "prosperity gospel." According to Paul, what is the value and purpose of prosperity?
7. What was Paul's focus in all his epistles? Was it on himself? His children? Or his wealth? How would Paul define his personal net worth?
8. Look up Luke 16: **13***No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.* Explain. If money owns you, what do you lose? When money is your servant, what do you gain?

Fight the Good Fight

11But you, O man of God, flee from these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. **12**Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession before many witnesses.

1. Go back, look and list what Timothy is to flee. As Charlie pointed out, the verb tense in each of these commands is present active imperative: flee and continuously keep on fleeing. Why is that important?
2. What do you get if you flee? What happens if you do not flee?
3. How do you pursue righteousness? What does an active pursuit of righteousness look like?
4. How do you pursue godliness? (Again, [see below](#).)
5. How do you pursue faith? How is pursuing faith like putting on faith?
6. The word "fight" here is the term used in competition: contend with adversaries, contest in intense athletic endeavor. Our English word "agonize" comes from this Greek word. Describe the "good fight of faith" in these terms?
7. Have you ever played on a team and the team knew it would lose? Have you ever played on an undefeated team? Can you describe the difference in attitude, in terms of "fighting the good fight?"
8. What are the key conflicts we are wrestling with today?
9. Charlie says, "We are a Narcissistic world." What does he mean? He says, "You have to be God-centered, not self-centered." How does one do that? Do you have a system?
10. How do you "take hold of the eternal life?" What good confession did you make before many witnesses? What good confession can you make today?
11. What does your confession establish?

12. Charlie says, "I'm looking at you. You're living your eternal life right now." When did you get that life? When did it begin? What happens when you take hold of it? What happens if you do not? How does Charlie's good confession affect you? What happens to your attitude when you take up this confession?
13. Imagine God answers the prayer, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." What changes? What changes in your own life, family and surroundings? How does foreseeing the outcome help with faith in the prayer itself?
14. Charlie says, "Live your best spiritual life right now in the present. You should be full of peace. You should be full of joy. You should be full of love. Why? You are living forever, people." How does this idea enhance the race we are running? What do these words make you think?
15. What do these words do to your thinking in terms of being ready? Remember last week's message, talking about the ten virgins: How does one purchase oil for the lamps?

13 charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who made the good confession in His testimony before Pontius Pilate: **14** Keep this commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which the blessed and only Sovereign One—the King of kings and Lord of lords—will bring about in His own time. **16** He alone is immortal and dwells in unapproachable light. No one has ever seen Him, nor can anyone see Him. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

1. Charlie's charge to live your best spiritual life in surrender to Him sounds a lot like Paul's final charge to Timothy here. Read verses 13 through 16. What do you see.
2. Charlie says, when people see you, they're seeing Jesus. When you pray with them, God joins in. Do you have a testimony?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the SOAP journal studies below throughout the week.
2. Charlie said, "Live your best spiritual life right now in the present." List the steps you need to take and apply the first one.
3. As one of the virgins, imagine the supply of oil in your cruse. Do you feel your light can burn through the night? Write your thoughts and a prayer.
4. Take note of useless chatter and its impact this week. What do you notice?

Take the time to pray.

The Rest of the Story

Serving with Honor

(Ephesians 6:5–9; Colossians 3:22–25)

1 All who are under the yoke of slavery should regard their masters as fully worthy of honor, so that God's name and our teaching will not be discredited. **2** Those who have believing masters should not show disrespect because they are brothers, but should serve

them all the more, since those receiving their good service are beloved believers. Teach and encourage these principles.

1. If slavery was not a key issue in Paul's day, but a matter of culture and history, what mattered most? See [footnote 1](#) below on slaves and servants.
2. Are there slaves and freemen in heaven? Who is the greatest in the kingdom of God? Who came to serve and not be served?

A Charge to the Rich

(Proverbs 23:1–5; James 5:1–6)

17Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, who richly provides all things for us to enjoy. **18**Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share, **19**treasuring up for themselves a firm foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Guard the Faith

20O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid irreverent, empty chatter and the opposing arguments of so-called "knowledge," **21**which some have professed and thus swerved away from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

1. Do the rich exist for Paul? Does Paul have a problem with their existence?
2. Does Paul tell the rich to sell all they have and give it to the poor?
3. Rephrase Paul's exhortation to the rich. Can good stewardship also mean providing for the future, according to Paul here?
4. Who gives us all things richly? See [footnote 2](#) below, especially re-read what Paul told the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 9, quoted there. Describe the purpose of wealth and stewardship.
5. See how Paul returns to the dangers of empty speech. What have you noticed in these exhortations?
6. How do arguments and disputes cause some to swerve from the faith? Why is dissension so dangerous?

Scribes Notes:

1. **On servants and slaves**—Jesus' chosen apostles were always competing for first place, and chief seat at the table. It goes from absurd in Luke 9:44-46, where they argue over who's the greatest only two verses after Jesus announced his betrayal, to almost comical in John's gospel 20:4, where John makes it clear that, though Peter did enter the tomb first...John had actually won the race to the tomb and got there first (though, perhaps, his deep sense of couth, propriety and decorum did not allow him to actually enter.) This fight for primacy did not end with the apostles, unfortunately, but actually erupted into what history calls the "Jesus wars," where city after city and see after see fought for Primacy over the church, which war the Bishop of Rome eventually won in the west, to impose for centuries the Roman Catholic Church as

supreme arbiter of the faith. Here's what Jesus told his disciples, in Matthew 20 concerning that attitude: **25**But Jesus called them aside and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them. **26**It shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27**and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave—He uses two words here, servant (διάκονος, *diakonos*/deacon, waiter, servant, minister and δοῦλος, *doulos*/slave, bond-servant, one who belongs to another and is wholly bound over and given to another's will, having no ownership rights. In this passage, Jesus explains that the great must be the deacon, but the first place goes to the *doulos*/slave. To the Romans, Paul introduces himself as *doulos* to Jesus Christ, and the term is often used in the New Testament as a badge of honor. ***How does the competition change when you know what "first place" looks like? Are you winning? Or have you forgotten to compete?***

- 2. On the "prosperity gospel"**—There has been much controversy in the church stirred up by what some call the "Word of Faith" movement. Critics have claimed that this movement teaches that "God wants you rich, healthy and powerful...and that whatsoever you name in faith, you can claim." Often called the prosperity gospel, proponents have distorted Paul's gospels with displays of abundant personal wealth, often drawn from the donations of their followers. This passage in Timothy addresses those distortions. Look again at verse 5, "...these men regard godliness as a means of gain." Paul does not deny the fact that godliness is gain. He only clarifies the meaning of "gain" in terms of the true gospel when he says, "godliness with contentment is great gain." We brought nothing into the world, we will take nothing out, however, we are absolutely the stewards of all that He puts into our hands. (As Jesus clearly said, "The one who is faithful in little things, I will make him master of much.") Key principles to a biblical doctrine of prosperity must hold Paul's example of faithfulness in focus, who knew how to be abased and how to abound, but never wavered in deference to any personal wealth, in that Jesus was only and ever the source and substance of all he possessed. What Paul had belonged to Jesus, and Paul was the steward, answerable to Jesus alone for all. The core principles of a biblical Word of Faith movement, all personalities aside, reset the Bible as the absolute standard and basis for faith. "God said it. I believe it. That settles it for me." The purpose of a believer, his faith established in the Promises of God, is to encourage others and strengthen them in their resolve to hold fast to what God has said. Faith in God's promise is the ultimate answer to every question, every doubt, every need. Error comes in when one deviates from what the Word actually says, as it is written in Proverbs 30: "*Every Word of God is true. He is a bastion for those who put their faith in Him. Do not add to His Word, lest you be reproved, and proven a liar.*" As far as the power of the message of prosperity is concerned, Paul makes it very clear to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 9: **6***Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and*

whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9As it is written: "He has scattered abroad His gifts to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." 10Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your store of seed and will increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be enriched in every way to be generous on every occasion, so that through us your giving will produce thanksgiving to God. 12For this ministry of service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanksgiving to God.

Read this passage and read it again. What is God's view of prosperity? What is the purpose of God's supply to the saints? Personal riches? Or meeting needs to raise the level of thanksgiving? What did Jesus mean when He said, "[38Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.](#)" How does the prosperity gospel become error? Remember what James said: James 4: [1What causes conflicts and quarrels among you? Don't they come from the passions at war within you? 2You crave what you do not have; you kill and covet but are unable to obtain it. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3And when you do ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may squander it on your pleasures.](#) Explain. How is the love of money at its root in this situation?

3. **On godliness as a means of gain**—Verse 5 talks of men who look at godliness as a means of gain. Just to be clear, Paul is speaking directly to those who push the gospel for profit. In Greek, Paul put it this way: *They hold πορισμὸν/porismon* (a source of gain/riches/profit, livelihood) to be [found] in godliness. In other words, they are saying you can get rich off the gospel. Have you ever heard that faith makes you rich?
4. **On godliness. What is it?** —We have looked at the word godliness when we read 2 Peter 1. Godliness, εὐσέβεια/*eusebeia* was sixth on Peter's list pertaining to the progression of Christlikeness from initial faith to God's *agape* love: [5For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; 6and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8For if you possess these qualities and continue to grow in them, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.](#) The word means piety (towards God), devotion...it expresses itself in reverence, an inclination to pay homage, toward God and what He calls sacred. It is someone's inner, warm, open response to the things of God that manifests itself in reverence.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the SOAP (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Psalm 77:13-14

Tuesday: Mark 5:27-30

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 6:3-5

Thursday: 2 Peter 1:5-8

Friday: 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Saturday: 1 Timothy 6:20-21