

Dr. Robert Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 7, 1 Timothy 6

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 7, 1 Timothy 6, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Yarbrough's lecture focuses on 1 Timothy 6, exploring Paul's instructions to Timothy regarding various groups within the church, particularly slaves and masters. The lecture examines how the gospel should impact social relations and addresses the complex issue of slavery in the ancient world, contrasting it with later forms of slavery and highlighting Christianity's role in its eventual abolition. **Yarbrough analyzes Paul's warnings against false teachers and the dangers of the love of money, emphasizing the importance of contentment and godliness.** He underscores the need for Timothy to remain faithful and guard the gospel message, offering guidance on dealing with wealthy individuals in the church and promoting true wealth through good deeds and generosity. **The lecture concludes by summarizing key priorities in 1 Timothy, such as sound teaching, proper worship, pastoral integrity, and the preeminence of Christ, stressing the practical application of Christian doctrine in everyday life.**

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Yarbrough, Session 7 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → Pastoral Epistles).



**Yarbrough_PastEpis
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3. Briefing Document: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 7, 1 Timothy 6

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from Dr. Yarbrough's lecture on 1 Timothy 6, with supporting quotes.

Briefing Document: 1 Timothy 6 – Apostolic Instruction for Pastoral Leaders

Overview:

Dr. Yarbrough's lecture focuses on 1 Timothy 6, providing insights into Paul's instructions to Timothy regarding various issues, including slavery, false teachers, the love of money, and the responsibility of the wealthy within the church. He emphasizes the importance of sound doctrine and practical application, highlighting the role of a pastor in guiding the congregation towards godliness and faithfulness. The lecture also touches on the historical context of slavery and the dangers of deviating from core gospel teachings.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. Slavery in its Historical Context (1 Timothy 6:1-2):

- Paul addresses slaves and masters within the church, urging respect and service.
- Yarbrough emphasizes that Paul's instruction is *not* an endorsement of slavery, but a practical engagement with the social realities of the time. "Paul is not endorsing slavery any more than Jesus, say, in Matthew 9. Paul says in Matthew 9 when he addresses divorce, that he's not endorsing divorce. He's dealing with the reality of a world into which he came..."
- He cites G.K. Beale and Scott Barchi to highlight the differences between 1st-century Greco-Roman slavery and 19th-century American slavery, noting that Roman slavery was more common, less race-based, and often led to eventual emancipation.
- He also references Jimmy Egan's article arguing that the New Testament implicitly condemns slavery.
- Christianity played a key role in ending slavery: "It's generally agreed by Roman world scholars that it was the rise of the Christian community that gradually brought an end to slavery in the Roman Empire."

1. **Combating False Teachers (1 Timothy 6:3-5):**

- Paul warns Timothy about those who teach contrary to sound doctrine and godly teaching.
- These false teachers are characterized by conceit, a love for controversy, and a corrupt mind. "If anyone teaches otherwise than what Paul is teaching to Timothy, and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching... they're conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words..."
- Yarbrough draws a parallel between the behavior of these false teachers and the contentiousness found on some online blog sites.
- The motives of some false teachers are self-serving, using godliness as "the means to financial gain."

1. **The Dangers of the Love of Money (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19):**

- True gain is found in "godliness with contentment" not in the pursuit of wealth.
- Yarbrough emphasizes that material possessions are temporary, stating "We brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it." We are merely stewards of what we have.
- The love of money is described as "a root of all kinds of evil," leading people astray from the faith.
- He connects the "lottery" to the love of money, as it can negatively affect a person's life once they become rich.
- The wealthy are charged not to be arrogant or to put their hope in wealth, but to do good, be generous, and share with others. "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant, nor to put their hope in wealth which is so uncertain, but put their hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

1. **The Charge to Timothy (1 Timothy 6:11-16, 20-21):**

- Timothy, as a "man of God," is called to flee from evil and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and endurance. "You man of God, flee from all this, so there's your first imperative, and pursue righteousness, godliness, there's that word again, faith, love, endurance."

- He is to "fight the good fight of the faith" and "take hold of the eternal life" to which he has been called.
- Paul reminds Timothy of his commitment and the example of Christ's good confession before Pontius Pilate.
- Timothy is charged to "guard what has been entrusted to your care," turning away from "godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge."

1. **The Importance of Sound Doctrine and Practical Application:**

- Yarbrough emphasizes the need for sound doctrine and its practical ramifications, linking it to "sapiential theology."
- He warns against a purely intellectual faith that doesn't translate into a transformed life.
- The Lordship of Christ should "revolutionize our behavior," leading to an active pursuit of righteousness and godliness.

1. **Pastoral Priorities Summarized from 1 Timothy:**

- Sound/healthy teaching and spiritual oversight
- Propriety in public worship (prayer and conduct)
- Integrity and competence in pastoral leadership
- The preeminence of Christ in the church

Observations and Implications:

- **The Greatness of God as Motivation:** Yarbrough stresses that a vision of God's greatness is the greatest motivator for faithfulness in service. "God is the greatest motivator for faithfulness in his service, in a very direct and really indescribable sense."
- **Positive Ethic:** He describes Paul's ethic as a "positive ethic," emphasizing the pursuit of good rather than simply avoiding evil.
- **Doxology Perfects Theology:** A love for God that results in doxology "perfects good theology and ethics."
- **Care for Souls:** The core task of a pastor is the care of souls and the making of disciples.

- **Grace as the Ultimate Resource:** Paul's confidence in Timothy stems from God's grace, which is the ultimate resource for overcoming challenges. "God's grace, and all that God's grace brings is Timothy's ultimate resource and the basis for Paul's confidence in writing."

Concluding Remarks:

Dr. Yarbrough concludes by emphasizing Paul's affirmation of trust in God, the gospel, Timothy, and the congregation to do the right thing under the Lordship of Christ. The lecture provides a valuable framework for understanding 1 Timothy 6 and its implications for pastoral leadership and Christian living.

4. Study Guide: Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 7, 1 Timothy 6

1 Timothy 6 Study Guide

Review Topics

- **Slavery in the First Century:** Understand the context of slavery in the Greco-Roman world and how it differed from later forms of slavery.
- **False Teachers:** Identify the characteristics and motivations of the false teachers in Ephesus.
- **The Love of Money:** Explore the dangers of the love of money and its consequences.
- **Godliness and Contentment:** Understand the true gain that comes from godliness and contentment.
- **The Man of God:** Appreciate the significance of Timothy being called a "man of God" and the responsibilities that come with it.
- **Wealth and Generosity:** Understand the proper use of wealth and the importance of generosity.
- **Guard the Deposit:** Understand what it means to guard what has been entrusted and to turn away from false knowledge.
- **Sound Teaching:** Recognize the importance of sound teaching and its impact on the church.
- **Practical Application:** How does sound doctrine relate to behavior and discipleship?
- **Role of Wealthy People:** Understanding the unique situation and potential pitfalls that wealthy people experience in a church.

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. How did slavery in the Greco-Roman world differ from 19th-century slavery in the American South?
2. What are some characteristics of the false teachers that Timothy was facing?

3. According to Paul, what are the dangers of the love of money?
4. What does Paul mean when he says that "godliness with contentment is great gain?"
5. What qualities should Timothy pursue as a "man of God?"
6. What should wealthy Christians be commanded to do, according to Paul?
7. What does Paul mean when he tells Timothy to "guard what has been entrusted to your care?"
8. Why is sound teaching so important for the health of the church?
9. How does Paul relate the concept of guarding the faith with a grace be with you all?
10. According to Paul, where should rich people put their hope?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Slavery in the Greco-Roman world was more common across a broader population, not limited to one race, and often allowed for emancipation, with slaves even holding positions of responsibility. In contrast, 19th-century American slavery was largely race-based, more brutal, and offered little to no chance of freedom or advancement.
2. The false teachers were conceited, understood nothing, had an unhealthy interest in controversies, and thought that godliness was a means to financial gain. They caused envy, strife, malicious talk, and constant friction.
3. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil and leads people away from the faith, piercing themselves with many griefs. It can also lead to temptation, traps, and destruction.
4. Paul means that true contentment comes from a relationship with God, not from material possessions. Godliness offers a satisfaction that the quest for money cannot provide.
5. Timothy should flee from the love of money and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and endurance. These qualities enable him to live a life of contentment and service to God.
6. Wealthy Christians should be commanded not to be arrogant, not to put their hope in wealth, to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and

willing to share. They should use their wealth to glorify God and support His work.

7. Paul means that Timothy should protect the gospel ministry in Ephesus and the people of God from false teachings. He should also turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge.
8. Sound teaching nourishes the flock, just as a good diet fattens cattle. Without it, congregations will be malnourished and susceptible to false teachings.
9. Grace is both Timothy's ultimate resource in guarding the faith and a blessing for the entire body of Christ in Ephesus. Paul affirms his trust that the church will do the right thing under Timothy's direction and Christ's Lordship in grace.
10. Rich people should put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They should trust in His provision rather than the uncertainty of wealth.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the challenges Timothy faced in dealing with the issue of slavery in the church at Ephesus. How can his approach inform our understanding of social justice issues today?
2. Analyze the connection between false teaching and the love of money in 1 Timothy 6. How can pastors today guard against these dangers in their ministries?
3. Explore the significance of Timothy being called a "man of God." What does this title imply about his character and responsibilities?
4. Explain Paul's instructions to wealthy Christians in 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How should these principles be applied in contemporary churches?
5. Discuss the practical ramifications of understanding Christian teaching and how they impact our lives, with particular emphasis on the need to glorify God.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apostle:** One sent on a mission with authority, representing the sender (in this case, Jesus Christ).
- **Contentment:** Satisfaction and peace of mind with one's present circumstances, rooted in faith in God.
- **Doxology:** An expression of praise and glory to God.
- **Emancipation:** The act of freeing someone from slavery.
- **False Teaching:** Doctrines or beliefs that deviate from the sound instruction of Jesus Christ and the apostles.
- **Godliness:** A life characterized by reverence, devotion, and obedience to God.
- **Gnosticism:** A religious movement that emphasized knowledge (gnosis) as the path to salvation.
- **Imperative:** A command or instruction meant to direct practical life.
- **Man of God:** A term used to describe someone who is dedicated to serving God.
- **Pastoral Epistles:** The letters of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus, which provide instruction for pastoral leaders.
- **Shalom:** Hebrew word for peace, completeness, and wholeness.
- **Sound Teaching:** Instruction that is healthy, accurate, and in accordance with the truth of the gospel.
- **Steward:** One who manages property or resources on behalf of another.
- **Ubiquitous:** Present or existing everywhere.

5. FAQs on Yarbrough, Pastoral Epistles, Session 7, 1 Timothy 6, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source, formatted in markdown:

- **Why does Paul address the issue of slavery in 1 Timothy 6, and does this imply endorsement of the practice?**
- Paul addresses slavery because it was a pervasive social reality in the ancient world. However, this is in no way an endorsement, but rather a practical engagement with existing social structures. Just like in Matthew 9 when addressing divorce, he is acknowledging a reality and offering guidance on how to live within it while mitigating suffering and pointing towards Christian values, reducing the suffering and speaking to the reality of the world into which the church came. The source argues that Christianity ultimately contributed to the decline of slavery.
- **How was slavery in the Greco-Roman world different from 19th-century American slavery?**
- Greco-Roman slavery differed significantly from American slavery. It was more widespread, not limited to one race, and often offered opportunities for emancipation. Slaves could own property, and their conditions were sometimes better than those of the free population. Education was even encouraged, with slaves fulfilling important social and political roles. These key differences highlight how the slavery Paul was addressing contrasts with the particularly inhumane system in the American South.
- **What are the characteristics of the false teachers that Timothy is warned against?**
- The false teachers are described as conceited, understanding nothing, and having an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words. They cause envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions, and constant friction. They are described as having corrupt minds and thinking godliness is a means to financial gain, thus corrupting the true teaching of the gospel.

- **What does Paul mean when he says "godliness with contentment is great gain?"**
- Paul contrasts the relentless quest for money with the contentment that comes from godliness. This contentment stems from knowing God, trusting in His provision, and finding satisfaction in one's circumstances because God directs our lives. It's a recognition that material possessions are temporary and that true wealth lies in a relationship with God. The passage suggests that those focused solely on wealth often fall into temptation, traps, and harmful desires.
- **Why is Timothy referred to as "man of God," and what is he charged to do?**
- The title "man of God," which was more commonly used for prophets in the Old Testament, is used to emphasize Timothy's unique calling and responsibility. He is charged to flee from evil, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and endurance, fight the good fight of the faith, and take hold of eternal life. He is also commanded to keep his calling and ministry faithful and without spot until the appearing of Jesus Christ.
- **What is Paul's view of wealth and how should wealthy Christians behave?**
- Paul does not condemn wealth outright but cautions against arrogance and putting hope in wealth, which is uncertain. Instead, wealthy Christians should put their hope in God, do good, be rich in good deeds, be generous, and willing to share. This aligns with Jesus' teaching to lay up treasure in heaven and take hold of the life that is truly life, which includes fellowship with God and doing His will. Wealth, in this view, is meant to be used to glorify God and support His work.
- **What does Paul mean when he says to "guard what has been entrusted to your care?"**
- This phrase encapsulates Paul's overall charge to Timothy. It refers to guarding the gospel, the ministry, and the people of God in Ephesus from false teachings and influences. Timothy is entrusted with the responsibility of making disciples and ensuring the continuation of sound doctrine and godly living within the church.
- **What are the main priorities that the source identifies in 1 Timothy?**
- The main priorities in 1 Timothy are: sound or healthy teaching and pastoral oversight, propriety in public worship, integrity and competence in pastoral leadership, the preeminence of Christ in the ecclesial vision, the dignity of every church member, and doxology to renew faith and faithfulness.