

Recap of 8/30/26 message by Steve Plank
("The Good Fight") 1 Timothy 6:9-21

After saying that godliness with contentment is great gain, Paul explains the dangers of discontent, of loving money and desiring riches. Wanting to get rich leads to foolishness and many harmful desires which end in "ruin and destruction." Why? Because we cannot serve two masters (Mt 6:24). Love of money inevitably distracts us from our faithful walk with Christ. It leads us astray because, as one writer put it, "there is no kind of evil to which the love of money may not lead men, when once it fairly takes hold of them."

In contrast to seeking riches, Paul tells us to pursue righteousness. Flee from the evils to which loving money leads. Instead, we should "fight the good fight" of faith by cultivating the fruit of the Spirit, realizing that knowing God is more important and better than anything wealth could give us, and obeying God's commands. God is the giver and sustainer of life, the source of all good things, the Lord of lords and King of kings.

Paul then tells us that being rich is not bad. In fact, many scriptures confirm what Paul said, that godliness with contentment leads to great gain. The proverbs consistently praise hard work and diligently saving (Pr 6, 10, 13, 21). Living beneath our means (contentment) eventually leads to greater wealth. Paul tells us here that the rich are to humbly help others, to be generous. Elsewhere he tells us our abundance should supply others need so that in our need someone else's abundance can supply us (2 Co 8) and that God richly supplies all things to His people (2 Co 9). In fact, He ensures generous people have plenty to be generous with (2 Co 9:10-11). Of course, the paradox is that our motivation for generosity must be our love of God and others. If our motivation is to get more, we have failed in contentment and are back to being led astray.

Finally, Paul encourages us to guard the truth God has given. We must stand firm, avoiding anything that opposes His Word. Following anything but God's truth leads us away from a life of faith.