

## INTRODUCTION

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

-He was rich; that is, He sat on the throne of heaven; He owned all the wealth of the universe

-Yet for your sakes He became poor

-He left the glory of His heavenly throne

-He was born a helpless baby

-He lived in obscurity as a carpenter

-He travelled from place to place preaching, having no place to call His own, and no money to speak of

-In the end, He was deprived of the few things He did own, when He was nailed to the cross; the soldiers who crucified Him cast lots to see who would get His clothes

-The devil offered Him riches, but He would not gain the riches of this world by unrighteous means; to do the will of God the Father, He had left all the riches of heaven; would He then do the will of the devil just to get the riches of this world?

-Jesus Christ did not love the things of this world; He did not love silver; He did not love money

-Jesus Christ was looking for great gain, but not gain that was made in any disgraceful way; He was looking for spiritual profit gained all in perfect righteousness

-He was willing to undergo any deprivation, any poverty, and be content, knowing that God the Father was well pleased with Him, and that God the Holy Spirit was with Him, in Him at all times.

-He became poor that you, through His poverty, might be rich!

-You, because of your sins, owed something to God's justice

-but it wasn't money you owed Him

-you had sinned against Him, and the wages of sin is death, everlasting fiery death

-But the Lord Jesus Christ paid what sinners owe in His own blood, by His own death

-Now all who turn from sin to trust in Jesus Christ no longer owe that awful debt. Instead, they are heirs to all the riches that He has as the Son of God

Today as we continue devoting ourselves to the apostles' doctrine in 1 Timothy chapter 3, we come to the matter of a man's relationship with money, silver, wealth, gain, profit. Because the work done by men in the office of bishop or pastor or elder in the church is such a good work, an excellent, a noble, an essential task, the church must choose for that office or position only such men as can rightly be said to be blameless. What must a man be like, then, to be judged blameless, and fit to be made a pastor in the church? And what must a man NOT be like?

Today we consider what a man must NOT be in relation to money or wealth or the riches of this world. Our text provides us two terms by which we can be taught what a Christian ought not to be, and what a Christian man MUST not be in order to be chosen a pastor.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 3:1-3

## BODY

### I. The First Term

#### A. At the end of verse 3

1. ESV not a lover of money
2. KJV/NKJV not covetous
3. Greek: lit. not fond of silver; not loving money
4. on “covetous”
  - a) “covetous” does not render the Greek word literally; it is something of a paraphrase
  - b) but this term was chosen consistently over many centuries in the older translations
  - c) the commandment “Thou shalt not covet...anything that is thy neighbor’s” includes the concept of not being fond of silver, not loving money
    - (1) Shorter Catechism and Larger Catechism - the commandments forbids “all inordinate...affections” toward possessions

B. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1. the love of money is here equated with the will or desire to be rich (verse 9)
2. the desire to be rich, or the love of money is the root of all evil (all kinds of evil)
  - a) if a person loves money, he might be motivated by money to do any evil thing
3. one evil in particular is mentioned here: leaving the Christian faith
  - a) KJV erred from the faith
  - b) NKJV strayed from the faith
  - c) ESV wandered away from the faith

C. The church must have pastors NOT like this

To be blameless, a man must not be covetous, must not be fond of silver, must not love money

## II. The Second Term

- A. Some of our Bibles have this term here; some do not
  - 1. KJV (right after “no striker”): not greedy of filthy lucre
  - 2. NKJV (right after “not violent”): not greedy for money
- B. All of our Bibles have this term in Titus 1:7 (at the end of the verse)
  - 1. KJV: not given to filthy lucre
  - 2. NKJV: not greedy for money
  - 3. ESV (Titus 1:7): not greedy for gain
- C. Learn this concept
  - 1. Titus 1:11
    - a) KJV filthy lucre
    - b) NKJV dishonest gain
    - c) ESV shameful gain
  - 2. gain or lucre or profit or increase
  - 3. filthy, dishonest, shameful
  - 4. ill-gotten gain
  - 5. dirty money - money laundering
- D. Greek: lit. not + filthy + lucre/gain/profit/increase
- E. The problem most directly being addressed here is the temptation for men to teach doctrines that are not sound when they see an opportunity to profit by it.
  - 1. Titus 1:10-11 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.
  - 2. a man who himself is greedy for such filthy lucre cannot be trusted to resist the temptation
  - 3. nor can such a man be trusted as the one to stop the mouths of such men

### III. APPLICATION - Be content; contentment

A. Be content, knowing He is coming 1 Timothy 6:6-14 Now 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 clothing, with these we shall be content. (9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. (10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (11) But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. (12) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

1. He is coming

B. Be content, knowing He is with us Hebrews 13:5

NKJV Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

ESV Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

1. knowing that He is with us, we are content with such things as we have
2. Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

C. To the church

1. cultivate this mind in the church
2. choose only such men for officers

### CONCLUSION

To be blameless, a man must not be covetous, must not be fond of silver, must not love money

To be blameless, a man must not be greedy for ill-gotten gain, for dishonest or shameful gain, for filthy lucre.

To be thought blameless, let every Christian here seek contentment; let every one be content, because Jesus Christ is coming again, and because He is with us, and will never forsake us.

Jeff - Call to Worship: Matthew 1:23

Chris - Scripture Reading: Isaiah 41:9-13

Jeff - Congregational Prayer

Benediction: Joshua 1:9

Allison - Prelude (please pick)

Allison - Trinity 149 "Joy to the World"

Anna - Trinity 734 "Jehovah, My God"

Anna - Trinity 192 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

1 Timothy 3:3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness [G866 *aphilarguros*]; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

Why "not covetous" in Wycliffe, Tyndale, Geneva, KJV? when literally "not loving silver"?

Vulgate *non cupidum* which is a form of *cupidus* eager, passionate; greedy; wanton, lecherous

*concupisces* is Vulgate for "covet" from *con* + *cupio* "con" gives emphasis to simple word

How?

be content with what you have

choose for pastors only those who will set a good example in this

set your mind on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God

Deu 31:1-8

Joshua 1:1-9

1 Samuel 12:20-24

Isaiah 41:10-13