

Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

1. Submission, what God and His teaching tells slaves about submitting to their [unbelieving] masters is that they should see their master as someone worthy of all their respect, 6:1. What God and His teaching tells slaves about submitting to their believing masters is that instead of despising their master, they should gladly serve them because the one benefitting from their service is a beloved brother, 6:1-2 (other places this appears: 1:3-11, 12-17, 18-20; 2:8, 9-10, 11-15; 3:4).
2. God, slaves are to consider their [unbelieving] masters worthy of all respect so that God's name and His teaching will not be blasphemed, 6:1. Instead of following the footsteps of those who reject the words of Jesus Christ, love to argue, use religion to get rich, and pursue the love of money, Timothy, a man of God, must flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness, 6:3-11. Paul urges Timothy in the sight of God, the Giver of all life, to fulfill the calling God gave him until Jesus returns, 6:13-14. God—the only Potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, and to whom belong honor and everlasting power—He will reveal Jesus Christ's appearing in His own time, 6:15-16. Instead of the rich in Ephesus trusting in their uncertain riches, they must trust in the living God, the Giver of all things, 6:17 (other places this appears: 1:1, 2, 9-11, 12-17; 2:1-4, 5; 3:5, 15, 16; 4:3-5, 8-10; 5:4, 5, 21).
3. Faith/Doctrine/Truth/Word, slaves must consider their [unbelieving] masters worthy of all respect so that God's doctrine will not be blasphemed, 6:1. Those who reject the words and godly teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ are proud, know-nothing, argumentative men of corrupt minds who are destitute of the truth, 6:3-5. In their greediness, some have strayed from the faith due to their love of money, which only pierced them through with many sorrows, 6:10. Some have strayed from the faith by devoting themselves to and professing the profane and idle contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge, 6:21 (other places this appears: 1:2, 3, 4, 5, 5-7, 10, 18, 19; 2:5-7, 11-14; 3:9, 15-16; 4:1, 3-5, 6, 13, 15, 16; 5:8, 17, 18-19).
4. False/Bad Doctrine, anyone who contradicts and refuses to submit to the sound words and godly teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ is driven by false/bad doctrine, i.e., they are proud, argumentative, know-nothings who possess a corrupt mind, are destitute of the truth, and suppose that godliness is a means of getting rich, 6:3-5 (other places this appears: 1:3-4, 6-7, 19-20; 4:1-3, 7).
5. Seeing God's Word simply as Doctrine/Instruction vs. Personal Life-transforming Power, if you're a slave and all you see in God's Word is doctrine, is teaching, then you will only hear God say that you are free in Christ, which will drive you to disrespect your [unbelieving] master. And if your master is a believer, then you will only hear God say that he's equal to you since you and he are both brothers in Christ. This will drive you to despise him for not lightening your burden or not setting you free. However, if you see God's Word as life-changing power, then you will see your [unbelieving] master as worthy of all your respect. And if your master is a believer, then you will gladly serve him because the one benefitting from your service is a beloved brother in Christ, 6:1-2.

When you see God's Word as life-changing power, then it will lead you to a life of godliness. But when all you see in God's Word is doctrine [which is to say teaching that is detached from the life of God], then it may lead you to become a proud, argumentative, know-nothing who possesses a corrupt mind and is destitute of God's truth, who thinks that godliness is a way to make money, 6:3-5 (other places this appears: 1:3-7, 8-16, 18-20; 3:15-16; 4:1-5, 3, 6-11, 3, 12-16; 5:3-7, 8, 9-10, 11-15, 17-25).

6. Jesus, anyone who contradicts and refuses to submit to our Lord Jesus Christ's sound and godly teaching is a proud and argumentative know-nothing who is constantly driven by envy, contention, slander, and evil suspicions, 6:3-4. Paul urges Timothy in front of Christ Jesus—who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate—to fulfill God's mission in Ephesus in the godliest way possible and to do so until the Lord's return, 6:13-14 (other places this appears: 1:1, 2-3, 12, 13-14, 15, 16; 2:5-6, 5-7; 3:13, 16; 4:6; 5:11-12, 21).
7. Godliness/Ungodliness, godly Christian slaves who adhere to God and His teaching will treat their masters as worthy of all respect. And if their master is a believer, then they will gladly serve them knowing that the one benefitting from their service is a beloved brother in the Lord. Ungodly Christian slaves who refuse to abide by God's teaching will disrespect their masters. And if their master is a believer, they'll despise them, 6:1-2. Those who adhere to our Lord Jesus Christ's sound and godly teaching live godly lives. Those who contradict and refuse to abide by the Lord's sound and godly teaching become proud and argumentative know-nothings who possess corrupt minds, are destitute of God's truth, and think godliness is a means of getting rich, 6:3-5. Those who are godly know that a life of godliness is more valuable than material wealth. Because they know that you can't take it with you and so they are satisfied with food and clothing/shelter. However, the ungodly are overcome by their desire to be rich and so they fall into the trap: they give into many foolish and harmful lusts that destroy them. They fail to realize that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil; it can lead you to stray from the faith and pierce yourself through with many sorrows, 6:6-10. Timothy must not follow the footsteps of those who reject the sound and godly teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, who love to argue, use religion to get rich, and pursue the love of money. Instead, he must pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. That is, he must fight the good fight of faith and take control of his eternal life as he's been doing. He must fulfill God's calling in Ephesus in the godliest way possible, the way Jesus did before Pontius Pilate. And he must do so until the Lord returns, 6:11-14. Those who are wealthy and godly trust in the living God not their riches; they know that wealth comes from their generous God. Instead of using their wealth for themselves, they take control of their eternal life and share their wealth with others knowing that castles on earth don't last but castles in heaven do. On the other hand, those who are wealthy and ungodly are scornfully arrogant and trust in their uncertain riches instead of the living God. They waste their eternal life and use their wealth on themselves building castles on earth instead of heaven, 6:17-19. Those who are godly guard what God committed to their trust; they avoid the profane and idle contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge. The ungodly, however, disregard what God committed to them; they profess and become experts in what is falsely called knowledge and thereby stray from the faith, 6:20-21 (other places this appears: 1:3-4, 5, 6-7, 9-10, 13, 18-19, 19-20; 2:1-2, 8, 9-10, 11-15; 3:1-7, 8-13, 14-15, 16; 4:1-5, 6-7, 6-8, 8-10, 12, 15; 5:1-2, 3-8, 9-10, 11-16, 17-20, 21, 22, 24-25).