

TRAJECTORY

1 Timothy 6:3-11, 17-19

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1. What you value determines the trajectory of your life.
2. 6:3 Their teaching was not going to grow the congregation into a healthy spiritual people, their teaching is going to poison them.
3. 6:3 These teachers had a form of teaching that seemed godly but was not.
4. 6:3 This inward transformation—fixing our desires, values, and passions on God—spills over into outward action.
5. 6:3 The teaching that is from God should conform to godliness; it should grow our affections for God and grow our actions to mirror his. Godliness puts us on a trajectory to being more like Jesus.
6. 6:4-5 Eternal things are at stake if they are allowed to continue. That's why Timothy's charge to rebuke them is so important.
7. 6:4-5 Context makes it clear that this was not an honest mistake. These teachers made a continual and prideful choice to turn away from Jesus' healthy words and turn to their own speculations.
8. 6:5 The false teachers were consumed with money and craved material, financial gain.
9. 6:5 Paul's problem was not with teachers in the church getting paid (see 1 Timothy 5:17-18). His problem was with their ulterior motives. Their true desires were not for God or for shepherding the flock, but for money.
10. 6:6 The trajectory of godliness is great spiritual wealth that has value in both this life and the next.
11. 6:6 When we put our true desire, value and passion in God, and when that spills over into our outward actions, then our resources are in God. And we have contentment.
12. 6:8 We can be content with just food and covering, because we have found something better.

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14. 6:8 Are we growing in our contentment because of Jesus? Are we less attached to the things we have, even if God has given us more?
15. 6:10 If money, wealth, and stuff is the most important thing to you, then you can expect to be pierced by many griefs: both spiritually and materially (see also Matthew 6:24).

Reflection Questions

- Where do I find nourishment in my desire for God (when/where does my love for God grow)? Where am I learning more about Him and experiencing Him deeper? How can I build that into my life more?
- Am I growing in my attachment to money, wealth, or stuff?
- Am I purposefully and intentionally carving out money and resources for God?
- How can I be MORE ready to share?

QUOTES

“Godliness is when one's true desires, values, and passions, as indicated in every relationship and activity, are fixed on the person of God, who is experienced through a spiritual relationship in the heart.”

~John Wainwright, 1993

