



10/1/2023 AM

Introduction:

“There is one thing a professor can be absolutely certain of: almost every student entering the university believes, or says he believes, that truth is relative. If this belief is put to the test, one can count on the students' reaction: they will be uncomprehending. That anyone should regard the proposition as not self-evident astonishes them, as though he were calling into question $2 + 2 = 4$. These are things you don't think about.... The danger they have been taught to fear from absolutism is not error but intolerance. Relativism is necessary to openness; and this is the virtue, the only virtue, which all primary education for more than fifty years has dedicated itself to inculcating.... The study of history and of culture teaches that all the world was mad in the past; men always thought they were right, and that led to wars, persecutions, slavery, xenophobia, racism, and chauvinism. The point is not to correct the mistakes and really be right; rather it is not to think you are right at all.” — Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*, pp. 25-26

I. INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING TREASURE (vs. 17-19)

A. Money must not be loved, selfishly hoarded, or indulgently spent. (vs. 17a)

“instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches”

Matthew 6:19-21, 24

Ecclesiastes 5:10-19

B. God, not money, must be our focus. (vs. 17b-18)

“but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share”

- 1) Money never brings satisfaction.
- 2) An unbalanced desire for money will deceive and will ultimately destroy you.
- 3) The pursuit of money chokes off spiritual life.
- 4) The possession of money gives rise to many sins.
- 5) The proper use of money can lead to some of the greatest spiritual joys in life.

C. Money must be used for eternal purposes. (vs. 19)

“storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed”

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLDING ONTO THE TRUTH (vs. 20-21)

A. The Duty to Fulfill (vs. 20a)

1) What is to be guarded?

I Thessalonians 2:3-4

I Timothy 1:18-19; 4:1, 6, 13, 16; 6:3-4, 6:12-14

II Timothy 1:13-14; 2:2, 15; 3:13-17; 4:1-6

2) What does it mean to guard it?

Obey it! (Isaiah 66:2)
Feed on it! (Job 23:12)
Study it! (II Timothy 2:15)
Pass it on! (II Timothy 2:2)
Defend it! (Jude 3)

B. The Danger to Flee (vs. 20b)

“...avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called ‘knowledge’ ”

1) Turn away from...godless chatter. (II Timothy 2:16-17)

2) Turn away from...opposing ideas. (Romans 16:17)

3) Turn away from...false knowledge.

C. The Disaster to Fear (vs. 21a)

“which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith”

1) A False Profession

II Peter 2:1-2

Acts 20:29-31

2) A Floundering Path

I Timothy 1:6; 6:10

II Timothy 2:18

James 5:19

Conclusion: “Grace be with you.” (vs. 21b)

- 1) Make sure that your possessions work for and not against you in your spiritual walk.
- 2) Concern yourself with laying up treasure that will be a good foundation for the future.
- 3) Told on to doctrinal profession with all your might.

Food for Thought:

- 1) How can our possessions work against us in spiritual warfare? How can they be put to good use for the
- 2) What constitutes “the treasure of a good foundation for the future”?
- 3) What is “the trust” (“deposit”) referred to in the Pastoral Epistles?
- 4) What are some of the conditions of our day and age that make it necessary to “fight the good fight of faith” and how should we go about it?