



WEEK 7

Ready in Every Role

Spiritual warfare doesn't take a break when we go to work or pay our bills. Paul reminds Timothy that the battle between God's kingdom and the world's values happens in everyday situations – in how we treat our bosses, how we handle money, and what motivates our decisions. Some false teachers were using religion to get rich, but Paul warns that the love of money is dangerous and destructive. Instead of chasing wealth, Christians should pursue contentment and godliness. This doesn't mean being lazy or careless with money, but it means our security comes from God, not our bank account. Being "fight ready" means living with gospel integrity whether we're rich or poor, employed or jobless, because spiritual battles happen in ordinary life, not just at church.

THE SCRIPTURE: 1 TIMOTHY 6:1-10

¹ Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled. ² Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things. ³ If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 7

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when someone confronted you about something in a way that was helpful rather than hurtful. What made the difference?
2. What's the most challenging relationship you're navigating right now? What makes it difficult?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Circle all the categories of people mentioned in this passage.
4. Verses 1-2 give instructions for relating to different age groups and genders. Why does Paul use family terms (father, mother, brothers, sisters)? How does this approach prepare us for "relational warfare" and fighting for and not against one another?
5. Paul gives detailed instructions about caring for widows (v3-16). What principles about caring for those in need generally can we extract from this passage? Are there any responsibilities that are asked of the widow?
6. Why do you think it is that widows receive special attention from Paul? What is it about their place in society that makes them especially vulnerable?

7. Verses 17–21 address how to handle accusations against church leaders. What process does Paul outline? Compare this with Matthew 18:15–20. Why is the instruction to not accept accusations against an elder unless collaborated by others important—particularly in today’s electronic age?
8. In verse 20, Paul says to rebuke those who sin “in the presence of all.” Referring again to Jesus’ words in Matthew 18, under what circumstances would public rebuke be deployed in the church? How does public accountability serve as a weapon against spiritual compromise?
9. Paul’s words in verses 9–10 don’t condemn wealth but the “desire to be rich.” What’s the difference? How can someone be wealthy and yet still be spiritually ready for battle?
10. According to verse 10, what is the relationship between money and spiritual compromise? Why is the “love of money” particularly dangerous in spiritual warfare?
11. Paul mentions being “pierced through with many sorrows” (v10). What kinds of sorrows does materialism bring? How have you seen this in your own life or others?
12. Evaluate your current approach to work and money. What changes might help you be more “fight ready” in these areas?