



# First Timothy

# Teaching For Money

**False Teachers Confronted**

**I Timothy 6:2b-5**

**Lesson Twenty-Eight**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*



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## A Study of the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to His Son in the Faith

### Teaching for Money

Sometimes Paul had to be very blunt. This is one of those times. As we said in the last lesson, the last sentence in verse two fits better with the third through the fifth verses than it does with the first two verses of Chapter six. Maybe we should mention that the verse and chapter numbers in the Bible were added a long time after the Bible was written. The Bible that had division by chapters and verses was published more than a thousand and five hundred years after Paul wrote to Timothy. Sometimes the original divisions, which are used even now, don't divide the thoughts like most people think they should. That is the case with the second verse in I Timothy, chapter six. Read I Timothy 6:2b (the last sentence in verse two) through verse 5.

In these verses we find Paul being pretty strong in his teaching. He wanted Timothy not only to teach the people, but to urge them to believe what he was teaching. Sometimes the teacher has to do more than just tell the truth. Sometimes, the teacher must motivate, or encourage, the learners to live by the truth.

Who was it that Paul thought needed additional attention? He was back to the teachers of false doctrine. These people were, as you remember, teaching that you needed to become a Jew before you became a Christian. Paul told Timothy in chapter one (verse 3ff) that Timothy's primary responsibility in Ephesus was to command these teachers not to teach. Now in our lesson today he was telling Timothy to speak to, and about, these same people. It seems that Paul thought it would take more than just a lesson or two from Timothy. He wanted Timothy to speak strongly to them. He was to warn them that they would show the world who they really were and everyone in the church would identify them as people who had certain characteristics. What were the characteristics of false teachers, and the results of their teaching?

First, they were rejecting sound doctrine, or complete truth, as taught by Jesus. Paul had just spent about eighteen months in Ephesus teaching them the whole truth about Jesus and the salvation He gives. Now others were trying to add to what he said was the complete truth.

2. Paul said that these teachers were conceited. That means that they wanted others to look up to them because they said they knew more than other Christian teachers, including Paul.

3. He said that they understood nothing. One of the most popular entertainment options of that day was the sophist. These were wandering "wise men" who used their clever arguments to entertain people and get paid for their cleverness. It was a cut throat business. Much of the time, these "wise men" spoke on topics chosen by the audience about which the speaker had no real knowledge. Anyone who was clever enough could be a sophist. They often went to a

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public place and spoke loudly so that they could drown out other sophists and get the crowd to come to them. These public places were markets where merchants were shouting their advertisements, singers were singing, those who wrote books were reading their books out loud and entertainers, such as jugglers, were performing. It was a mad house of noise. In the churches of that day, there was much less order than we have today. If someone had an idea, they could just stand up and present their idea to the whole congregation. So, the false teachers didn't have to know or understand what they were talking about, they only had to get the floor and speak.

4. The false teachers were too interested in arguing. There are a lot of people, even today, who study the Bible whose only purpose is to find something to argue about. There are some who, if you disagree with them, take it as a personal insult and argue that they know the whole truth where you are just uninformed and need their help in understanding Scripture.

5. The arguments of these teachers cause a lot of trouble. Paul said that they had been "robbed of the truth." They were much more interested in finding points for argument than they were in finding truth. So, in their ignorance they were leading people into jealousy, into the kind of disagreements that end in fighting...sometimes actually throwing punches. Their enjoyment of arguments made people want to talk angrily about other people, accusing them of not believing or living by what God said. Their kind of arguments made people suspicious of other people who could end up on the other side of an argument.

6. There was a "constant friction" in the church because people thought they had to take sides. They were so focused on their false teachings that they had "corrupt minds." Their minds, which should have been focused on the true teachings of Jesus, were corrupted or led astray by the false teachings.

7. And, finally, Paul says that their motivation for doing all this is money. They used their ability to teach as a way to make money. This was true of the sophists, and it was true of the false teachers in the church, which some have compared to the sophists. What a terrible thing it is to use lies to make money. We have seen this happen in the world recently where people who were in business to invest money lied about how they were investing it. Then those who trusted them to handle their money lost their money because it was invested wrongly. Also, if one watches certain "preachers" on television, one can hear requests for money often.

Paul had no patience with these false teachers.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

**Lesson Goal:** To help students see how wrong it is to teaching anything other than the truth of God, as Jesus revealed it.

**Scripture Memory:** "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness." I Timothy 6:11



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## Student Worksheet—Following Through

### Teaching for Money—I Timothy 6:2b-5

>What were the seven characteristics of false teachers, and the results of their teaching?

>Paul had no \_\_\_\_\_ with these false teachers.

**For Memory: “But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.” I Timothy 6:11**

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.