**God’s Design for the Church (1 Timothy)**

**Stand Firm (1 Timothy 6:6-10)**

**Recap:**

* **Finish Chapter 1**
* **Finish Chapter 2**
* **Finish Chapter 3**
* **Finish Chapter 4**
* **Finish Chapter 5**
* **Living as Servants Part 2 (1 Timothy 6:1-2)**
* **Fan the Flame (1 Timothy 6:3-5)**
  + **False Teachers are Identified by their False Doctrine (v.3)**
  + **False Teachers are Identified by their Attitude of Pride (v. 4)**
  + **False Teachers are Identified by their Leaning toward Controversy and Discord (4b-5)**
  + **False Teachers are Identified by their Apostasy of the Faith (v. 5).**
  + **False Teachers are Identified by their Motive to Profit (v. 5)**
* **1 Timothy 6:6-10**
* **Today’s Sermon Titled is Stand Firm and one of the ways we can Stand Firm is an attitude of contentment.**
* **There is an amazing story in the book of Acts that takes place right after Stephen’s stoning and during the time Saul is persecuting the church. This persecution caused many of the disciples to run for cover, to be scattered around the world. Phillip, one of those original deacons, went to Samaria. He became an evangelist, proclaiming Jesus as Messiah.**
* **Miraculous things happened while he preached in Samaria, impure Spirits left people with shrieks, paralyzed and lame people were healed, joy filled the city.**
* **There was a guy in Samaria named Simon who had a following before Phillip showed up with the gospel. He was a magician, a sorcerer. He was a good at his magic people gave him the4 nickname “The Power of God.”**
* **But when the people believed Phillip as he preached the good news they were baptized into Christ and even Simon the magician believed and was baptized. In fact, he followed Phillip everywhere because of the great signs and miracles. When the guy who pulls a rabbit out of his hat sees a person with leprosy cleansed and made whole, he stops thinking he is the “power of God.” Real power blows away illusions.**
* **The Apostles are still in Jerusalem, but when they hear the Samaritans have accepted the word of God, they head for Samaria to pray and give the gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter and John are the two Apostles that are sent. These Samaritans had only been baptized in the name of Jesus. Peter and John place their hands on these new believers, and they receive the Holy Spirit.**
* **Acts 8:18-24**
* **Simon had believed and been baptized in the name of Jesus, but his heart was still not right before God, and he had no share in real ministry.**
* **He had left repentance out of the equation and still had a thirst for this world’s money and this world’s power, and now he had seen “real power,” and he thought he could buy it.**
* **What does this have to do with surrendering to God our treasure? What does this have to do with godliness, and standing firm in contentment? Everything**
* **Godliness and Contentment Keep us Eternally Focused.**
* **Why is it so hard to remain content?**

1. **It is hard to remain content because society breeds discontent.**
2. **It is hard to remain content because material things can never bring true contentment.**

* **How can we develop contentment?**

1. **To be content we must recognize and rely on God’s sufficiency.**
   1. **Philippians 4:11-13: Not that I am speaking of being in need for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance, and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**
   2. **Are you relying on God or something else? Relying on anything or anyone other than God will lead to a life of discontent because they cannot satisfy.**
2. **To be content, we must trust in God’s Sovereignty**
   1. **Ephesians 1:11: In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.**
   2. **Romans 8:28: For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that we might be the firstborn among many brothers.**
   3. **Job 1:21: And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away blessed be the name of the Lord.”**
   4. **Do you trust in God’s Sovereignty?**
3. **To be content, we must learn to give thanks to God in everything.**
   1. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**
   2. **Do you practice giving thanks or complaining?**

* **Godliness and Contentment helps us to live Simply.**
* **How can we live simply?**

1. **We must distinguish between wants and needs.**
2. **We must practice sacrifice.**
3. **We must discipline ourselves to spend less than we earn.**

* **Godliness and Contentment helps us to recognize the dangers of desiring wealth.**
* **What are the dangers of loving money?**

1. **Love of money causes people to fall into temptation and a trap.**
2. **Love of money leads people into many senseless and harmful desires.**
3. **Love of money plunges people into ruin and destruction.**

**Conclusion:**

**Godliness and Contentment:**

1. **Keeps us Eternally Focus**
2. **Helps us to live Simply.**
3. **Helps us to recognize dangers of desiring wealth.**

**STAND FIRM. MOST IMPORTANTLY STAND FIRM IN CONTENTMENT.**