

RADIO MINISTRY

DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM

92.1 FM OPM Radio Jinja-Uganda &
<http://revival-time-ministry.info/messages/>

Date: 27th June 2015

Time: 6:00 to 7:00 am Saturday

TEXT: 1 Timothy 6:3-11 *If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves grief. But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

INTRODUCTION: The above is an extract from apostle Paul's letter to his spiritual son Timothy who was overseeing pastoral work in the city of Ephesus. Paul wrote out of concern to instruct and caution the young church leader on the eminent danger the church was facing in a big city of about 200,000 residences. He himself was in Macedonia at the time he wrote to Timothy.

The Church in Ephesus was begun by Priscilla and Aquila, a devout and a gifted Christian couple. Paul joined them in Ephesus during his second missionary journey. Paul pastored the church in Ephesus city for three years before moving to another region.

Ephesus was a big city and was the provincial headquarters of the Roman administration in Asia Minor. It ranked with Alexandria in Egypt, and Antioch in Greece. The City of Ephesus was known for its famous Temple of Artemis or Diana, one of the seven wonders of the world by then. Paul wrote to instruct and caution Timothy to deal with four major problems the church in the community of Ephesus was facing:

- (i) To counter false teachings some of the influential church elders had introduced. The key among the elders were Hymenaeus and Alexander who were attempting to divert the attention of Christians from the main doctrines to endless myths and genealogies. Paul disciplined them by putting them outside the church (1 Timothy 1:3.20) ***As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines. Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme..***
- (ii) To put in order, the worship in churches, conduct, dressing of women particularly and generally family and other relationships in the church
- (iii) To address the challenge of inadequate qualified church staff and their qualification and
- (iv) Correct money related attitudes among believers and church leaders.

THEME: The Christian's Correct Attitude to Money

Money and material things are necessities for livelihood and comfort of mankind, including Christians, on earth. Money is a means of exchange for material goods and services, therefore an inevitable commodity in life. Money, per se, is not an evil thing but the position it occupies in man's life determines whether it is an idol or not. Money

is meant to serve man by facilitating him and not to be worshiped and served him.

Apostle Paul's advice to young and a bit timid Timothy is not only relevant here in Uganda, but long over due. A week hardly passes without money and sex-related scandal involving a pastor, a prophet, a bishop etc in the press. The title, 'a Pentecostal preacher' no longer sells, but is synonymous with scandals. For example, the newspaper (Sunday Red Pepper) of Last Sunday, on pages 14 and 15 carried nasty stories about pastors involving naked women, and drinking detergents and grass in the name of anointing.

From the advice of apostle Paul to pastor Timothy, contained in our text above, we can derive three applications a church of today needs to correctly adjust the attitudes about money and material possessions. I would like to split the text above into three main components:

1. Financial gain mentality from being a Christian or serving the Lord is wrong:

1TIMOTHY 6:1-3 *If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.*

It is no longer uncommon to hear quarrels, churches and relationships breaking over money issues. Some people may have come to the Lord Jesus Christ with wrong reasons, motives and intentions. There are a good number of church leaders (Pastors, Bishops, Apostles, prophets and teachers) who are in the ministry for the purpose of making money. Such pretend to be serving God, yet the sole reason is actually is to make line their pockets and become rich. Such leaders are less concerned about the picture projected out there to non-believers about their behavior.

- (i) They falsely advocate that God's blessing and anointing are determined by how much of the material goods and money they have. Such false preachers' messages is not on to building the spiritual quality of Christian church and encourage them to live lives pleasing to God, but make money, fly abroad, own big cars, bungalows etc. Isn't this a diversion?
- (ii) Such false teachers direct people's attention a way from the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word on to themselves through fake power and financial miracles. They delighted in lofty and intimidating titles as prophets, apostles, bishops etc. They desire peoples respect and honor more than the Pharisees in the New Testament.

Such false teachers have infiltrated the Church of Jesus Christ and must be confronted and silenced through scriptural teaching. They sell prayers and fake manifestation of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts in order get money.

In the year 2011, I had a bad encounter with such false prophets: A girl went to such a one for prayer support. She was in dire need to get married to some one she loved. Unfortunately, the boy she loved was not responding fast enough. The girl, a banker, was working in one of the banks here in Jinja. She wanted very much to have quick results, and her own pastor did not seem emit sufficient spiritual power. Many new converts tend to seek for power rather than the Word and end up falling victims of such scrupulous preachers.

She approached the so called super prophets in Kampala who could deliver quick results. She was commanded by the super prophet to plant a big seed, (i.e. give big money, land, house, car etc) and she would see results in a maximum of three weeks. She had just purchased a car through a loan scheme and had driven it for three weeks. What is a car compared to the blessing of marrying such a tall and handsome man? She delightfully traded the car blessing for marital blessing. The flamboyant con man in the name of a prophet roared in prayer after getting through with the deal.

The allotted time for the blessings elapsed without the expected results. Weeks turned out to be months, yet no response. Six months down the road, the banker learned that the man she was eyeing was hot with someone else, and were in advanced stages of getting married.

She had been coned and also dumped, double tragedy! She contacted the prophet, who had actually forgotten of the deal and was warming for more seed from her. She asked her vehicle back, but she received threat for a worse curse in life, which could have included loss of a job, terrible road accident or even death, if she dared to bother the man of God. Broad daylight robbery; a criminal activity had taken place in the name of Jesus Christ.

She was fleeced by a man who could have been her comforter. The desperate young woman resorted to seeking help from a counselor. She was directed to me. She did not need counseling, but help minimize damage by recovering her vehicle from a criminal masquerading as a servant of God; a big wolf in the sheep's skin.

He never complied when I contacted him for the first time: He tried to scare me off as well using heaps of curses. But I brought the big man to his knees in less than 30 minutes. I simply called the police and he was ordered to take the car to Kampala central Police, and be detained, awaiting court verification. He called back pleading like a young baby, very apologetic and begging for mercy. The con man in the name of the prophet was humiliated, and handed the car back to the girl. I told him that I was an original Pentecostal, trained, speaking in tongues daily and casting out demons. Therefore any curses upon me are null and void as long as I pursue the truth within the context of God's Word. I do not hear anything about him now.

My dear listeners, there are so many so called prophets, Bishops selling out prayers and blessings; do not listen to them. God gives us his blessings freely and we must also give out freely. God used Elisha to heal Naaman, the Assyrian commander, of his leprosy; Naaman was so impressed and wanted to give every thing he had to the man of God but the man of God refused. **(2kings 5:14-16) So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a**

little child and he was clean. When he returned to the man of God with all his company, behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; so please take a present from your son now. But he said, as the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will take nothing, and he urged him to take it, but he refused

One day, I was in a public bus from Mbale heading to my home town, Soroti. A preacher joined us and began to preach a twisted gospel of wealth, health and visas to Europe. Before long before he began collecting offerings. Some of the unbelieving passengers were making mockery of the gospel and the preachers.

I could not stand such a ridiculous behavior. I rebuked him strongly, telling him to look for something else to sell, but not the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am not only uncomfortable with preachers who take offerings from anyone including non-believers in an open air crusade ground, but also ashamed of that. It does not show a good testimony for the preacher to beg money from non-believers.

Macedonia went into record as the best giving community in the New Testament history, but they had to give themselves to Christ first. It is a honorable thing to speak in open air, but let us try to find a better way of meeting the costs rather than charging it on the hearers of the gospel.

Please, it is biblical and acceptable to give our love and thanks giving offering to God in form of money in our churches. It is also biblical to pay our tithes to our churches, support the weak and the needy and any other church project. The giving must be cheerful and not forced and not through intimidation.

There are some churches that have rejected coins as offertory and introduced “***Church Revenue Authority***” to collect money from the Christians. Most of such churches do not have a transparent accountability system but exist to enrich one person in the names of the prophet, apostle etc. This is unbiblical and must be rejected. ***(2Corinthians 8:20-21). Taking precaution so that no one will***

discredit us in our administration of this generous gift, for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of men.

A church must show an example of good administration of resources before it can criticize governments of corruption. Believers are donors, and any donor is right to demand accountability from the recipient.

A few years ago when I was in Mwanza in Tanzania, a Ugandan preacher from Kampala had looted people in terms of planting a seed; he had taken from people lots of money, household appliances and other valuables. It was a very bad testimony from Uganda, and I came close to being rejected from speaking in a conference. Ugandans and Nigerians are ranked as the most fraudulent in the world. What a shame to the people of Africa!

2. Contentment

But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves grief.

Contentment is a state of being fulfilled by whatever you have. It is a state of being in God's perfect will and whatever is done is for His glory. God will then meet the person's need in accordance. Man's need of today is not limited to only food, shelter and clothing, but slightly wider to include some core responsibility such as education for the children, transport and communication. In other words, a believer must first find the will of God for his or her life, fit nicely in the body of Christ, and automatically find the needs met.

A Christian identity is not determined by what he has in terms of material possessions or who he is in terms of education and social status, but by his intimacy and relationship with God through Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Man's heart is a bottomless pit which can not be filled by money and material things. ***(Jeremiah 17:9) "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"***

There is no amount of wealth that can satisfy human hearts. The more he has, the more he wants, not for the glory of the Lord as such, but to give him identity and serve as an idol in his life.

The Christian response should be different; to further the kingdom of God on earth because the destiny of a Christian is eternal glory. Therefore, wealth should be treated as stewardship of God and given opportunity to glorify God.

There is a lot of joy and freedom in the life of Christian whose attitude towards wealth and possession is transformed. His giving is Scripturally directed.

3. Promotion of Godliness and God's Kingdom

But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Every Christian believer or saint in Christ ought to know that they are merely pilgrims on earth with clearly marked eternal destiny in Heaven. Therefore, whatever they do is an investment for the future. Yet many are not even conscious of that, living as though they are permanent here on earth.

All believers are under a Great commission given by Jesus Christ. The commission is to make disciples of all nations. That means that the task of raising an army of saints is upon the shoulders of mankind: Men and women who are set apart unique, spotless and untainted by the World eagerly waiting for the second coming of Christ is the end product of our mission.

This enormous responsibility is not only for church leaders but every one redeemed of the Lord: Civil servants, farmers, business people, etc., are all called to participate in the noble task.

There are three main different way in which an individual believer may get involved:-

Some are called to go practically. Evangelists, preachers, teachers, apostles and prophets fall under this category. They are endowed with authority and grace to accomplish the task.

However, they cannot do it without a back-up from intercessors and senders (**financial sponsors**). This brings us to the issue of giving as one way through which God promotes and supports His work here on earth. Giving should not be done to sustain luxurious lifestyle of an individual through intimidation and deception. Support may be given to a diligent and genuine servant of the Lord live a moderate life. This must be done cheerfully (**2Corinthians 9:6**) ***Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.***

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Forceful giving does not carry any blessings with it. Tithing is recognition of God's blessing and should be done by all believers not as buying salvation, but recognition of God, the giver. Love and thanksgiving offerings are a part of worship which a believer must carry along to a worship service mainly on Sundays. Giving to the poor and church related projects is a responsibility of a very able believer and carries a blessing tag from God.

However, it should be done as the Holy Spirit leads but not under compassion, intimidation, force, threats etc.

SUMMARY

Apostle Paul was instructing a young pastor to deal with wrong doctrine introduced by money thirsty and backslidden church elders. He meant for Timothy to pay attention on his own attitude and

response to money. Similarly, I would like to warn you my listeners to avoid falling victims to scrupulous so called men and women of God. They are indeed men and women off God. Yes, you do need a prayer support; I do need it as well, much as I pray for my self and other people. If someone is going to charge you a fee for praying for you, avoid him or her out-rightly; they are the Alexanders of our days.

Your purpose is to prepare for eternity, so work so hard and make as much money as possible but in a clean way; meet all your need and give to support the needy around you and the course of the gospel. Invest in the kingdom of God but through your local church. Be part of the local church. You do not need a human mediator such as apostles, prophets etc to be praying for you, but Christ Jesus in Heaven is already your mediator. **Amen!**

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Pray request: Pray that I do not drop off the radio program as the other time due to lack of sponsorship. Pray that I raise partners to give regularly (Ones a month) to sustain this program in the air every Saturday morning. It is a bit costly nevertheless; I took a step of faith.

Pastor Isaac Peter Oyako
In the Studio of OP Radio in Jinja
92. 1 FM

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am Saturday 27th / June .2015