**REASONS WHY WE’RE NOT SEEKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD FIRST**

**Text: I Tim 6:6-12**

* 1Ti 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
* 1Ti 6:7 For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out.
* 1Ti 6:8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.
* 1Ti 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.
* 1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
* 1Ti 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
* 1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

**INTRO:**

* Despite the fused into one command of the Lord to “Seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness”, why is it that lots of Christians do not pursue the kingdom of God?
* Obedience to God’s command always carry with it a reward.
* Deut 28:1 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.
* Deut 28:2 "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:
* Deut 28:3 "Blessed [shall] you [be] in the city, and blessed [shall] you [be] in the country.
* You shall lend and not borrow-v 12
* You shall be the head and not the tail-v 13
* To seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness is the only guarantee that our basic needs will be provided, how come we still prefer to work hard for our needs?

**AIM:**

1. **FOR US TO KNOW THE REASONS WHY WE’RE NOT SEEKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS FIRST.**
2. **FLEE FROM THOSE REASONS AND PURSUE THE KINGDOM.**

**I. GODLINESS WITHOUT CONTENTMENT-V 6**

* Godliness should be regarded as our greatest valuable acquisition.
* Contentment-refers to a state of mind;
* a calm and satisfied feeling;
* a freedom from murmuring and complaining.
* Jam 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
* Jam 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.
* Jam 1:4 But let patience have [its] perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
* Reason to be content-v 7
* We brought nothing into this world, it is certain that we cannot carry anything out.
* When to be content-v 8
* When we have food and clothing
* With these we shall be content

**II. OTHER/MATERIAL PURSUITS**

* Context of “ALL THESE THINGS”.
* Mat 6:31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
* Mat 6:32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
* Mat 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
* If we’re just honest enough to admit our pursuit is more than food, drink, and clothing.
* Designer clothes, latest gadgets, fashion, selfish desires.

**III. DESIRE TO BE RICH-V 9**

* Those who desire to be rich fall into:
* Temptation-I John 2:15-17
* Snare
* 2Ti 2:26 and [that] they may come to their senses [and escape] the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to [do] his will.
* Foolish and harmful lusts
* Which drown men in destruction and perdition.

**IV. LOVE OF MONEY-V 10**

Is the root of all kinds of evil

* Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.
* To love money is a sure guarantee that you will hate God.
* Ex. When we go to work, we don’t say it’s too early, we don’t say it’s too cold, and we seldom go late.
* We are devoted to our work because of money
* When going to church, we are always late, we say it’s too cold, we say there’s transport difficulties, we are tired, we need to rest, we need to look after the children, worst of all we cannot attend because we are at work.
* Your devotion signifies which or whom do you love.
* For which some strayed from their faith in their greediness.
* And pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
* Pro 10:22 The blessing of the LORD makes [one] rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.
* Psalm 62:10 Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, Do not set [your] heart [on them].

**V. FAILURE TO FLEE FROM THESE THINGS-V 11**

* No Contentment
* Material Pursuits
* Desire to be rich
* Love of Money
* Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength

**VI. FAILURE TO PURSUE THE RIGHT PURSUITS-V 11**

* The Kingdom of God
* The righteousness of God
* Godliness
* Faith
* Faith comes by hearing the Word of God-Rom 10:17
* Fight the good fight of faith-v 12
* Exercise your faith
* Look after your faith
* Faith is not faith until it’s the only thing your holding onto.
* Faith without work is dead-James 2:17
* Works without faith-Independence from God
* God promises to add all these things which means we don’t have to work for it.
* Proof:
* Exd 16:14 And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, [as] fine as frost on the ground.
* Exd 16:15 So when the children of Israel saw [it], they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did
* not know what it [was]. And Moses said to them, "This [is] the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.
* Exd 16:16 "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, [according to the] number of persons; let every man take for [those] who [are] in his tent.' "
* Exd 16:17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less.
* Exd 16:18 So when they measured [it] by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need.
* Exd 16:19 And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning.
* Exd 16:20 Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.
* Exd 16:21 So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.
* Exd 16:22 And so it was, on the sixth day, [that] they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.
* Exd 16:23Then he said to them, "This [is what] the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow [is] a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake [today], and boil what you
* will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.' "
* Exd 16:24 So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it
* Exd 16:25 Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today [is] a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field.
* Exd 16:26 "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."
* Exd 16:27 Now it happened [that some] of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.
* Exd 16:28 And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?
* Exd 16:29 "See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."
* Exd 16:30 So the people rested on the seventh day.
* Lev 25:21 'Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years.
* Love
* Patience
* Gentleness
* Failure to lay hold on eternal life
* What you see is what you need.
* We are so short sighted that we are just after the things we see
* We are holding so many things in life, so many wishes/desires, so many ambitions, that we lost our grip of what is most important-eternal life.

**VII. REBELLION/INDEPENDENCE**

* 1Sa 15:23 For rebellion [is as] the sin of witchcraft.
* We are just like our father-the first man-Adam
* John 8:44 "You are of [your] father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [resources], for he is a liar and the father of it.

**CHALLENGE:**

* What was or what is your reason?
* Are you willing to flee from your reason and start pursuing the Kingdom of God today?

**CONCLUSION:**

* **1Ti 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.**
* **1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**