

Worship Material
Treasuring generosity
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 28th September

Begin with an opening prayer

Let us come together now in God's presence,
as those who want to praise God
and in pursuit of righteousness, godliness, faith,
love, endurance and gentleness.

Amen.

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Bible notes

1 Timothy opens by denouncing false teaching (1:3ff) and closes by criticising those who ignore the teaching of Jesus by equating godliness with wealth (6:3,5). 'Godliness' (eusebeia in Greek) is a word not often used today. Neither is it found elsewhere in Paul's writings, where he sums up distinctive Christ-like living as 'righteousness' or 'holiness' (e.g. Romans 6:13, 12:1). The NRSV sometimes translates eusebeia as 'religion' (e.g. 3:16). But godliness is more than outward observance. It springs from deep reverence for the living God (4:10) and is the fruit of faithful living that shows itself in honouring others, mutual care and respect (5:1–6:2). Soldiers and athletes are role models of the discipline and perseverance that nourish eusebeia (v.12). Timothy's 'good confession' – his public witness to the faith when he was commissioned for his ministry in Ephesus (1:3) – finds an inspiring role model in the witness of Jesus before Pilate (v.13).

Christ-like godliness points beyond itself to the reality of the invisible God (vv.15-16), as its hope-filled living transforms everyday life in the light of God's future salvation (4:8). Hoped-for treasure in heaven appears as treasure on earth in the form of greed-transforming generosity (vv.18-19). It is not money but insatiable 'love of money' that is 'a root of all kinds of evil' (v.10), as it spawns the vices that undermine social as well as individual well-being (6:4-5). By contrast, the good works of generosity flow from an appreciation of the nature of God (v.17), and the contentment this brings in having enough (v.8).

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of life with you.
Help us to be content with what we have
and not to be tempted by the trappings of this life.
Thank you for the good things you give us each day.
May we treasure them.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

Lord, you are so generous to us.
As we leave here, guide us to serve you and others
by sharing the treasures we have been given.
Help us to be grateful when others are generous to us.

Amen.