

“ASKING QUESTIONS FOR REVELATION”

Prov 2:4-5

Devon Ryals asked a question about a passage he was working on: *1 Timothy 6:6-7* "Why is it great gain to be content with what you have?"

- A. God pictures truth as mineral/treasure that must be dug out of the ground
 - 1. This tells us it takes work – and you won’t see the treasure at first
 - 2. The process of digging for truth is called analysis: “To take apart” – see what’s in there
 - a. You will use tools: Commentaries/word studies/dictionaries to do this
 - 3. In this case: It is not a general question – “I want to understand everything in this passage”
 - a. But there is a particular word or phrase that caught his attention: Contentment
 - 1. I don’t recommend preaching topically on contentment: *Every scripture on contentment in the Bible*
 - b. But we want to understand contentment in this passage
- B. A major part of revelation is asking questions
 - 1. I said he was asking the wrong question in this case: "Why is it great gain to be content with what you have?"
 - 2. Here we have a statement: *V6 godliness with contentment is great gain.*
 - a. So for this statement the correct question would be: *Is contentment a problem or a solution?*
 - 1. In this case it is a solution/an answer
 - 3. If that’s the case – the important question would next be: Why is Paul saying this?
 - a. The answer won’t make sense unless you present the problem
 - 4. Your job is to build a case for the need for contentment
 - a. What is the heart tendency that Paul is addressing or correcting? Greed
 - 1 Timothy 6:5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.*
 - b. Some logical questions flow out of identifying what the wrong motivation is:
 - 1. Why are people motivated by greed 2. What heart issues produce greed?
 - C. So point 1 builds a case of the heart tendency towards greed
 - I. The Human Drive (Greed)
 - 1. Pride 2. Power 3. Fear
 - D. Sermons are linear (they follow a logical progression – in a line)
 - 1. If this is true – then that is true – which means that this must be true
 - 2. So if you identify the problem (Greed) what should logically come next?
 - a. The results of greed
 - 1 Timothy 6:9-10 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. 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.*
 - II. The Result

People wind up destroying themselves for money.
 - E. So what should be the logical next step in this passage?
 - 1. To give the answer to the problem of greed: Contentment
 - a. Now the answer becomes apparent: Why is contentment “great gain”?
 - 1. You don’t fall into temptation and snares 2. You don’t drown in destruction and perdition
 - 2. Contentment is protective
 - a. It keeps us on track b. It protects us from temptation (and perhaps false doctrine) see **V5**
 - 3. So now you have a logical progression for a sermon – and the revelation becomes clear
 - I. The Human Drive (Greed)
 - II. The Results of Greed
 - III. The answer to Greed: Contentment
 - F. So asking questions is often the key to revelation
 - 1. There are many questions you could ask...
 - 2. But if you ask the right questions, it becomes much easier to put together a sermon.