

“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. *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. 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.