

THE MASTERY OF THE DETAILS OF LIFE (#3)
[The Doctrine]

Teleiology is a theology term used to describe the study of spiritual growth maturity in Christian Way of Life.

(Heb.5:14) “But solid food is for the mature (teleios), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Matt.4:4)

We are studying 12 church age doctrines that are essential for spiritual growth maturity. Today we are studying the ninth Teleiology doctrine:

Grace	Positional Truth	Angelic Conflict
Dispensations	Spiritual Gifts	Forgiveness
Spirituality	The Will of God	Transformation
The Faith Cycle	Suffering	Details of Life

We introduced the doctrine of Mastery of Details of Life with a parable from Luke 16:1-14.

The primary doctrinal point of this parable was stated in Luke 16:13 – “No servant can serve two masters; either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**”

In this parable, Jesus gave us the premise for Mastery of the Details of Life – “**Serve God, not mammon.**”

Today’s lesson will study six aspects of the doctrine of Mastery of Details of Life.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

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| • 1 Tim.6:6 | Godliness | (eusebeia) | Contentment of source (autarkeia) |
| • 1 Tim.6:7-8 | Grave | (womb to tomb) | Collections of details of life |
| • 1 Tim.6:9-10 | Grief | (9 dangers) | Conformity to worldly thinking |

2. Paul warned that the love of money (he philarguria / nsf) will be a source of much grief (1 Tim. 6:9-10).

Paul listed 9 examples of much grief associated with the love of money (temptation, snare, foolish desires, harmful desires, plunge into ruin, plunge into destruction, root of all sorts of evil, wander from the faith, and pierced with many pangs) (1 Tim.6:9-10).

(2 Tim.2:16) “And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive to do his will.”

This is part of what Paul meant by “**conformity to the world**” (Rom.12:2) or by “**former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit**” (Eph.4:22).

3. Paul taught that godliness, accompanied by contentment was the key to the Mastery of the Details of Life. (1 Tim.6:6).

Godly (eusebeia) [well, devout, practical theology) contentment (aut /arkeia) [autos = self] and [arkeia = sufficiency] based on Grace Orientation (**God is the source**) or (**serve God, not mammon**) is the doctrinal principle.

Eusebeia implies “living a consistent life of reverent devotion for Christ, no matter what the circumstances of life”.

(1 Tim.4:8) “For bodily discipline is only of little profit, but **godliness is profitable for all things**, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

(Matt.6:20-21) “But lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroy, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

“Godly indicates those who are recipients of God’s grace and who, as a result showed the impact of grace in their lives.” (Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.315)

4. Details can be in two categories: secular and religious.

Secular is the one familiar to most people.

(Eccl.6:7) “All a man’s labor is for his mouth and yet his appetite is not satisfied.”

(Eccl.5:18) “Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one’s labor in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.”

Religion can also be a source of details of life (status symbols, works achievements, positions of authority, clergy garb) (Matt.23:1-8; Luke 20:45-47; 2 Tim.3:1-5).

What is important to the Lord?

(Luke 18:8) “I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of man comes, will He find faith on earth?” (Luke 7:9) [Roman centurion]

5. One sign of spiritual maturity in the Christian Way of Life (CWL) is the ability to direct the desire for the details of life to God, the source of all details of life.

(1 Tim.6:6) “But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.”

When you have the capacity for the source, then you will have the capacity for the details (Matt.6:21) [heart and treasure].

(Matt.4:4) “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’” (Deut.8:3)

Godliness accompanied by contentment requires inhaling and exhaling of the Word of God by means of the faith cycle (Titus 1:1-2; 3:3; Phil.4:11-13).

(James 1:16-17) “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”

6. The frantic search for happiness can result from the lack of spiritual growth [capacity] to receive the “good and perfects gifts from above” which can lead to enslavement to certain details.

The prodigal son and Lot’s wife and are good examples of this principle (Luke 15:13-17; 17:32).

(Luke 16:13) “You cannot serve two masters” and “You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Roman proverb: “Love of money is like drinking salt water; the more you drink, the more you want.” (Heb.13:5; Luke 12:19-21; Eccl.5:10; 1 Tim.6:17; Col.3:5; 1 Tim.3:3)