

October 1, 2017

“Fight the Good Fight of Faith”

Focal Passage: 1 Timothy 6:11-21 (NASB)

Cross References: Matthew 6:19-21; 10:32-33, 42; Mark 13:32; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 5:19-24; 1 Timothy 2:23; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; Hebrews 6:10

Lesson Idea: We need to flee from worldly pursuits and chase hard after the attributes of godliness.

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Sept 24 Obadiah – Jonah 4	Sept 25 Micah 1-7
Sept 26 Nahum 1-3	Sept 27 Habakkuk-Zephaniah 3
Sept 28 Haggai 1-2	Sept 29 Zechariah 1-7
Sept 30 Zechariah 8-14	Oct 1 Malachi 1-4

Background:

From David Guzik, *Enduring Word Commentary on 1 Timothy 6:11-12...*

But you, O man of God: Timothy was commanded to be different from those who lived for riches and material wealth. He was to flee the proud arguments of those who misuse God’s Word and who suppose that we should follow God just for what we can get out of it.

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness: Instead of pride and riches, Timothy was to make these things his pursuit. These are things which are often not valued in our present age, but are very valuable to God. This challenge to leave some things and follow hard after some other things isn’t just directed to Timothy, but to everyone who would be a man [or woman] of God – as opposed to being a man of this world.

Fight the good fight of faith: Going God’s way – against the flow of this world – won’t be easy. Therefore, Timothy had to have a soldier’s determination.

1 Timothy 6:11-21

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until

the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”— 21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.

Grace be with you.

DISCUSSION:

- v 11. Look back over verses 1-10. What does Paul want Timothy to flee from? What does he tell him to pursue instead? (see Galatians 5:19-24)

- Define the following terms:

righteousness

godliness

faith

love

perseverance

gentleness

- V 12. How do you “fight the good fight of faith?” What does it mean to “take hold of the eternal life to which you were called?” (see 2 Timothy 4:7-8)
- What is the “good confession?” Why should we make our confession “in the presence of many witnesses?” (see 1 John 2:23; Matthew 10:32-33)
- V 13. How can Paul say that his charge to Timothy is “in the presence of God?” What is his description of God, and why does he use that phrase here? What

was “the good confession” that Christ Jesus made before Pontius Pilate?

NOTE: from Guzik:

Christ Jesus: This is who gave Timothy the difficult command. Jesus Himself knew what it was to fulfill a difficult command, because He witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate and did it in several ways.

i. Jesus admitted the truth about Himself, agreeing with Pilate’s statement that Jesus was the King of the Jews (Matthew 27:11).

ii. Jesus testified to Pilate about the sovereignty of God, saying *You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given to you from above* (John 19:11). Jesus let Pilate know that God was in charge, not Pilate.

iii. Jesus was silent about specific accusations, refusing to defend Himself, but leaving His life in the will of God the Father (Matthew 27:14). . .

iv. In each of these ways, Jesus made a good confession before Pontius Pilate; so when Timothy is told to live up to the good confession he made (1 Timothy 6:12), he is simply being told to do what Jesus did.

- V 14. What commandment is Paul asking Timothy to keep? How do you continue “without stain or reproach?” Why is that command given only “until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ?”
- V 15. When will the appearing of Jesus come? (see Mark 13:32) Explain these descriptions of God the Father and Jesus the Son:

blessed and only Sovereign

the King of kings and Lord of lords

who alone possesses immortality

dwells in unapproachable light

whom no man has seen or can see

To Him be honor and eternal dominion!

- V 17. What instruction does he give to rich people? How could this apply to nearly everyone in America? What should our enjoyment be based upon?
- V 18-19. Why should Christians do good and “be rich in good works?” How generous are you? Why?

- V 19. What kind of treasure should we be storing up, and why? (see Matthew 6:19-21; 10:42; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 6:10)

NOTE: from Guzik:

Rich in this present age: This phrase puts it all in perspective. These ones might be rich now, but they must use their riches responsibly if they will be rich in the age to come. **Not to be haughty:** Pride is a constant danger with riches. It is very easy to believe that we are more because we have more than another man has. **Nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God:** God knows our tendency to trust in riches instead of in Him. He guards us against this danger because He wants us to trust in that which is most certain – in Him and not in uncertain riches.

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give: Being a giver, and doing good with our resources is what guards our heart from materialism and trusting in uncertain riches. Many think the main reason for giving unto the Lord is because the church needs money. No. The most important reason to give is because you need to be a giver. It is God’s way of guarding you against greed and trust in uncertain riches. God will provide for His work even if you do not give; but what will happen to you? If you do not give of your material things to the Lord’s work, how will you be storing up for [yourself] a good foundation for the time to come? How will you lay hold on eternal life? Will there not be some – perhaps many – who do not enter heaven because they heart was really far more comfortable here on earth with its material rewards?

Lay hold on eternal life: Paul’s idea was to Timothy, “Leave the pursuit of money aside and be content with your work as a minister of the gospel. Your hand is not big enough to lay hold of two things. Therefore, since you can only have one, see that it is the vital thing. Lay hold on eternal life.”

- V 20. How could Timothy “guard” what was entrusted to him? Why should he avoid empty chatter and false arguments about “knowledge”?
- V 21. How do people go astray from the faith?

APPLICATION:

- ✓ How do you devote your life to “fighting the good fight of faith?”
- ✓ How do you keep from going astray from the faith?

Lesson by Bro Stan