

Sermon: **“The Good Fight” (1 Timothy 6:11-16)**

Date: **February 9, 2020**

This week we'll be looking at the latter part of 1 Timothy 6. Paul has just finished warning Timothy about false teachers who distort the gospel for dishonest gain, teaching a different doctrine than what our Lord Jesus Christ taught (v. 3-5). He called Timothy to be godly and to find his contentment in the Lord, for such is great gain (v. 6-7). And he warned Timothy that the desire to be rich leads people to ruin (v.9) and that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil (v. 10). Here in 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Paul encourages Timothy to flee from these things and instead pursue holiness and faith. Whereas in verses 3-10 he focuses on what Timothy should avoid, in verses 11-16 he focuses on what Timothy should chase after. The pursuit of godliness is a life-long fight. We must fight for faithfulness each and every day. We must take hold of the eternal life that has been given to us. We must keep God's commandments and persevere in doing so. And as we fight this good fight of faith, we must do this to the glory of God, remembering that Christ is with us in the fight.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Timothy 6:11-16 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. In verse 11, Paul tells Timothy to “flee these things.” What “things” is he calling Timothy to flee from? (Hint: see verses 3-10)
 - b. Paul tells Timothy to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness (v. 11). Give a brief definition for each of these terms.
 - c. Paul calls Timothy a “man of God” and then proceeds to call him to flee from immorality and pursue holiness. Why is it significant that Paul calls Timothy a “man of God”? Do we ever outgrow Paul's exhortation in verse 11?
 - d. What does Paul mean by the phrase “fight the good fight of faith” in verse 12?
 - e. What is Paul likely referring to when he speaks of Timothy making a “good confession in the presence of many witnesses,” (v. 12)?

- f. What does Paul mean when he says “to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,” (v. 14)? What commandment is he talking about? What does this tell us about how long we’re to keep this commandment for?

- g. How does Paul describe Jesus Christ in the doxology he gives in verses 15-16?

- h. Why do you think Paul chooses to remind Timothy of the power and majesty of Jesus Christ in verses 15-16 immediately after commanding Timothy to persevere in the good fight of faith?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. Paul commands Timothy to flee from sin (specifically false teaching and greed) in verse 11. What does this practically look like? How do we flee from sin in our lives?

3. Instead of chasing after the treasures of the world, we’re called to chase after holiness and godliness. How do we actually do this? On a day-to-day basis, what does it look like to pursue the things listed in verse 11?

4. Why do you think Paul refers to our continual fleeing from sin and pursuing of righteous as a “fight” in verse 12? How is the Christian life a daily struggle? How can we persevere in this fight and avoid giving up?

5. Which of the descriptions given of our Lord Jesus Christ in verses 15-16 stands out most to you? Why?

6. Why do you think Paul chooses to remind Timothy of who Jesus is in verses 15-16? How does our knowledge of who Jesus is help us in fighting the good fight?