

Church: Living in the Household of God (1 Timothy 6:11-16)
For the week of December 11, 2016

Overview

In this passage Paul gives a direct and intentional contrast between Timothy and the false teachers. True ministry is not motivated by greed, but by the reality of eternal life and an awareness of accountability to God. Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16. What are the key themes in this passage?

6:11

1. How does Paul refer to Timothy at the beginning of this passage? This same phrase is used frequently in the Old Testament. Read the following passages and list the people to whom these verses refer to and any recommendations you find about them:

- Deuteronomy 33:1
- Joshua 14:6
- Ezra 3:2
- 1 Samuel 9:6
- 2 Chronicles 8:14
- Nehemiah 12:24, 36
- 1 Kings 17:18
- 2 Kings 4:7

2. The phrase used by Paul ("O man of God") is intended to set Timothy apart from the faithless teachers described in verses 3-10. Paul tells him to flee from these evil things. What were these evil things? Is this still true for us today? How can we avoid falling into these traps?

3. Instead of evil, Timothy is told to pursue six things. Define the following terms and give an example of how each can be modeled:

- Righteousness
- Godliness
- Faith
- Love
- Perseverance
- Gentleness

4. Identify one or two of these six characteristics that you personally need to improve upon. Write down a specific "next step" to help your focus.

6:12

5. Paul tells Timothy to fight the good fight for the true faith. Author and Pastor Chuck Swindoll compares faith to an endurance race that tests the athlete's determination. Tell of a time when your faith was tested or challenged to stretch. What was the outcome? How were you encouraged?

6. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. What help or encouragement does Paul give on how to run this race?

7. Timothy is instructed to grab hold of the eternal life that belongs to him. God called him to it and he publicly acknowledged that calling. Are you currently using your spiritual gift(s)? If not, what "next step" can you take?

6:13-14

8. Paul charged Timothy to use Christ as his example for sharing the gospel when he stood before Pontius Pilate and shared the truth before a hostile audience. Have you shared your testimony with a less than enthusiastic audience? What was their reaction? Has the reaction encouraged or dissuaded you from trying again?

6:15-16

9. Paul speaks of the time when Christ will return in bodily form and gives him great exaltation. Write your own words of praise for the Lord!

Prayer

Ask the Lord for the strength to flee from doing evil things and instead to pursue godly things. Pray for endurance to run a good race of faith and to be willing to share the gospel with others and to freely exalt His holy name. As Christmas is upon us, ask for opportunities to speak with friends and family members and open their hearts to the message.