



LOOKING UP WHEN LIFE IS A LETDOWN



Set your minds on things that are above... Colossians 3:2

Looking Up in the Battle

1 Timothy 6:11-16

A.W. Tozer said that faith is a battleground, not a playground. Our world treats faith as a playground: choose what works for you. But there are two common pictures in the NT that speak against such a view. The first picture is warfare, the second athletics, where walking with Christ is likened to a race or a fight.

But the Good News is we can look up in the Battle. The focus of our text this morning and our focus is this:

The life of faith in Christ is a battleground, not a playground!

What we need for this kind of faith are strategies. Today we'll look at some strategies Paul gives to his younger protégé, Timothy, for the battle of faith.

Today, we'll look at three strategies that are given to engage in the battle of faith.

1) Flee (Verse 11a).

He tells Timothy to flee “these things” (Verses 3 and 5).

There are things in your life that you must flee, or they will wreck your life!

Notice he doesn't say *how*, he just says, “Flee!”

2) Pursue (Verse 11b).

In both sports/warfare, there is a time to evade and to attack!

It's not just fleeing the wrong stuff; it is pursuing the right stuff!

These are things we get from being with Christ and His Body!

3) Take hold of (Verse 12).

What does he say to take hold of- “the eternal life.”

We can take hold of this life or hold onto “the eternal life.”

He tells Timothy/Us how to do this in the last part of verse 12.

This probably refers to Timothy’s confession at his baptism...

Life in Christ is a battleground, not a playground; a place to pay, not a place to play!

How?

By fleeing “these things...” You know the things you need to flee!

By pursuing what is godly.

By taking hold of what Paul calls “the eternal life.”

And to do these things we need Christ, and we need one another!

*Our text this morning ends by looking up in Verses 15-16. It is a reminder that Christ will come again, and to be ready for that day is to engage in the battle this day. One small thing to do this week is to do what Paul told Timothy: **remember** your baptismal confession!*

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