



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

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## 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Stand Guard!

Paul concludes his first letter to Timothy by telling him how to guard what has been entrusted to him and why it matters. This passage is incredibly applicable for the church in America today. To hear a more detailed explanation, I encourage you to get online and listen to the message.

Guarding what has been entrusted to you means **fleeing** (separating yourself from) the sins, the methods, and motives of the false teachers. It also means **pursuing** righteousness (personal integrity), godliness, faith, love, perseverance (bearing up under difficult circumstances), and gentleness. Paul encouraged Timothy to fight the good fight of faith **taking hold (means to experience) of eternal life to which he was called**. Because of who Jesus was and what He did, the work is finished and the victory has been won. By grace through faith in Christ, we enter into that victory and have eternal life. It's one thing to have eternal life, it's one thing to know what Jesus has done, and it's a whole other thing to enter into that life and victory. It's essential to "take hold" of eternal life (let it work in our experience) if we want to fight the good fight of faith and guard what has been entrusted to us.

Paul also challenged Timothy to **keep (guard, preserve) the commandment**. He wanted Timothy to guard the good confession of Jesus Christ (guard it, don't shrink back) **without stain or reproach (don't allow your life to give any reason for people to question the Gospel)**.

As Paul encourages Timothy to guard the treasure, He reminds him of who God is (15-16). **He is the King of kings, Lord of lords, sovereign ruler over all, immortal, and dwells in unapproachable light**. To Him be honor and eternal authority! Timothy could engage in the

struggle each day, guarding what had been entrusted to him, as he fixed his eyes on who God is. Knowing who God is meant that Timothy didn't need to fear what may happen in life because his Ruler was ruler over all. He also didn't need to fear death because God, through His Son Jesus, has shared immortality with His kids (take hold of eternal life). Then, Paul left important instructions for those who were wealthy in the church (17-19). I would encourage you to read those verses. Compared to many in the world, we all would be considered extremely wealthy. As you seek to apply this passage to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- **Are you guarding what has been entrusted to you?**
  - Are you fleeing that which could be a hinderance to the Gospel (false teaching, sin, love of money)?
  - Are you pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness?
  - Are you taking hold of the eternal life to which you were called?
  - Are you growing in your view of Almighty God (15-16)? Standing guard involves growing in your view of God because you will experience struggle. Who God is and your relationship to Him, because of Jesus, is what keeps you keeping on!
  
- **Why is guarding the treasure such a big deal?**
  - Because the treasure has in it both eternal life and abundant life!
  - Because future generations depend on it!

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