

“Fight the Good Fight”

1 Timothy 6:11-21

2/6/2021

OUTLINE

WELCOME:

(1 minute)

INTRO:

(1 minutes)

- **Illustration:** Quitting what you start
 - **Q:** Have you planned to do something, but eventually quit?
 - **80%** of those who make a NYR quit by February
 - Only **8%** of those who make a NYR keep them all year
 - Paul closes letter warning not to quit
 - ****** The weightiness of eternity is too important

RECAP & CONTEXT:

(2 minutes)

- **Where we started:** Timothy to lead Church of Ephesus
 - Called to **PROCLAIM** the Gospel
 - Called to **GUARD** the Gospel
 - Called to **CELEBRATE** the Gospel
 - Called to **FIGHT** for the Gospel
- **Where we are going** (purpose for letter): Book Overview
 - Addressing different groups w/in the church
 - Reminder to live on guard b/c of false doctrine

- A final exhortation to “fight the good fight”
- ****Reminder the Church is called to represent Jesus****
- **Where we are now: Current Situation**
 - Paul prepares to conclude letter
 - Reiterates importance of seeking & living for Jesus
 - Final exhortation to Timothy
 - Final instruction for Timothy to give to the church
 - Reminder to guard/protect witness, faith, & life
 - ****CONCLUSION → Keep your eyes on Jesus!**
- **Sermon Title: “Fight the Good Fight”**

BIG IDEA:

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea: Cling to Jesus – it’s life or death!**
 - Avoid distractions
 - Pursue Jesus
 - Hope in the Lord
 - Guard your life

PRAY:

(1 minute)

READ:

(2 minutes)

- **Text: 1 Timothy 6:11-21**

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal

life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ God will bring this about in his own time. He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God,^[a] who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding irreverent and empty speech and contradictions from what is falsely called knowledge. ²¹ By professing it, some people have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

PREVIEW:

(1 minute)

- Main Points:

- 1 – **Flee from sin** (v.11-16)
- 2 – **Look to Jesus** (v.17-19)
- 3 – **Live with purpose** (v.20-21)

PILLAR 1: **Flee from sin** (v.11-16)

(15 minutes)

¹¹ But you, man of God, **flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and**

gentleness. ¹² **Fight the good fight of the faith.** Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴ **to keep this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.** ¹⁵ God will bring this about in his own time. **He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords,** ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

(v.11)

- “But you man of God, flee from these things...”
 - Paul, again, warned of:
 - 1. False doctrine
 - 2. Greed
 - Paul has warned of both topics several times
 - **These 2 categories are not exhaustive
 - Just prevalent issues to guard against
 - “Flee from” = implies seriousness of something
 - Meriam-Webster Definition:

- 1. To run away often *from* danger or evil
 - 2. To hurry *toward* a place of security
 - **There’s no neutral ground
 - **Run *from* one thing & run *toward* something else (opposite ends)
 - **THEREFORE** → Paul emphasizes:
 - 1. Seriousness to run from FD & Greed

- 2. Importance to run toward Jesus
 - “...and [instead] pursue...”
 - 6 categories:
 - Righteousness
 - Godliness
 - Faith
 - Love
 - Endurance
 - Gentleness
 - *“Pursue”* = active consistency
 - Requires intentionality
 - Meriam-Webster Definition:

1. To follow in order to overtake, capture, kill, or defeat
 2. To find or employ measures to obtain or accomplish
 - ****** These 6 characteristics are contrary to FD & Greed
 - **Notice** → Resembles fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)

(v.12)

- “Fight the good fight of the faith”
 - Not only pursue, but fight!
 - Timothy is to take action
 - Not called to passivity
 - ****** Fight = “To put forth a determined effort”

- “*The faith*” = Jesus’ commands & teachings
 - ******Means applying & living out what the Bible says in our lives
 - We are **NOT** to cherry-pick God’s Word
- “*Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession...*”
 - You must take responsibility for your relationship w/ Jesus
 - Your walk w/ Jesus directly impacts your eternal standing
 - Must surrender lordship to Jesus
 - Requires responding in faithful obedience
 - Reminder of God’s grace in “calling” you to Him
 - Reminder of your profession of faith before others
- **CONTEXT:** *Timothy as a “man of God”*
 - **Remember** → Timothy called to lead church of Ephesus
 - Paul calls Timothy a “MoG” to remind & encourage him who he is in Christ
 - Paul uses strong language to emphasize importance of instruction
 - (e.g.: *flee, fight, called, charge you*)
 - Timothy’s life will impact others watching & following him

- ******Stresses weightiness of relationship w/ Jesus & choices you make

(v.13-14)

- AGAIN → Paul urges Timothy to hold to the faith

¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Paul is making a vow before God to Timothy
- Exhorted & “*charged*” Timothy to lead well
 - Requires total surrender to Jesus
 - Total surrender impacts all aspects of life
- “*...W/o fault or failure...*” = Don’t give up
 - Failure is not an option
 - The stakes are too high
 - Your calling is too important
 - Eternity is too weighty
 - Souls are hanging in the balance
- “*...until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ*”
 - Reminder to always live w/ intentionality
 - Christianity cannot be turned on/off when convenient
 - Christians do NOT cherry-pick God’s commands
 - Requires devotion to Jesus no matter what
 - Reiterates Jesus as Lord + eternal significance

(v.15-16)

¹⁵ God will bring this about in his own time. He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

- Paul's foundation is rooted in Jesus
 - “*God will bring about...in his own time*” = Jesus holds all authority
 - Jesus is God
 - Jesus holds all authority
 - As God, Jesus is our foundation
 - Jesus defines the standard(s)
 - Must grasp to biblically live, lead, & obey
 - **CONTEXT:** *Jesus > Caesar*
 - “*The only Sovereign, King of kings, Lord of lords...*” = term culturally reserved for Caesar
 - Paul makes clear no one is at par with Jesus
- Paul reiterates Jesus' greatness & power
 - The glory & greatness of Jesus cannot be fully grasped
 - **v.16** → “*...who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see...*”
 - Paul is referring to Jesus' majesty
 - “*No one has seen or can see*” = God's **TOTAL** glory

- God's glory cannot be fully grasped until we are w/ Him in heaven
 - **ILLUSTRATION:** Hearing vs Experiencing Disney
 - **Q:** Why do most people go to DW?
 - **A:** B/c they've heard great things from others
 - If I tell you about DW, you may think it's fun
 - **BUT** → Unless you visit for yourself, you'll never truly experience & "get it"
 - **AND** → every time you go back, it gets better
- **APPLICATION:**
 - There is no room for sin or disobedience in the life of a Christian → **JESUS IS LORD!**
 - God's call on your life + the spiritual realities that exist are too serious to disregard

PILLAR 2: Look to Jesus (v.17-19)

(10 minutes)

¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

(v.17)

- Paul addresses where hope comes from

- *“Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth...”*
 - **AUDIENCE:** Rich people
 - Applies to all Americans
 - Do **NOT** need to be a millionaire
 - **PROBLEM:** Arrogance + hope in money
 - Don't think you're more important than others → Paul addressed this issue with women in Ephesus 1 Tim. 2:8-15)
 - Don't think you're a “big deal” → (e.g. NFL players who boast)
 - Don't place your hope in “*the uncertainty of wealth*” → (i.e. Covid-19 stock market crash)
- **INSTEAD** → *“...[place their hope] on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy.”*
 - Timothy must remind others that God is source of all blessings
 - ****** People must trust God, **NOT** what “makes sense on paper”
 - **Q:** Are you following God's call & placing hope in Him, or are you rationalizing & hoping in your money and stuff?

(v.18-19)

18 Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, 19 storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

- Called to live in obedience for God's glory
 - Timothy is to instruct the church "*to do what is good*"
 - 1. Be rich in good works
 - 2. Be generous & willing to share
 - 3. Store up treasure in the world to come (not this one)
 - **WHY** → "*so that they may take hold of what is truly life.*"
 - True joy stems from faithful obedience
 - Only Jesus can/does provide eternal life
 - Use your resources for God's glory
 - Live out what you say you believe
 - Be an ambassador of Jesus in desire & action
 - ******Emphasizes head, heart, & hands
 - Remember Jesus said:

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be expected." — Luke 12:48

- **ILLUSTRATION:** George Mueller
 - In 1900s, George Mueller served orphans of England
 - Gave all he had toward the call God placed on his life

- Was inconvenient & uncertain at times, but he prayed & was obedient nonetheless
- Mueller cared for more than 10,000 orphans

○ **AUTOBIOGRAPHY QUOTE:** *“Money is really worth no more than as it can be used to accomplish the Lord's work. Life is worth as much as it is spent for the Lord's service. Be assured, if you walk with Him and look to Him, and expect help from Him, He will never fail you.”*

- **APPLICATION:**

- **Q:** What are you placing your hope in and what are you living for?
- **A:** Don't rest in money but find hope in Jesus Christ!

PILLAR 3: Live with purpose (v.20-21)

(5 minutes)

²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding irreverent and empty speech and contradictions from what is falsely called knowledge. ²¹ By professing it, some people have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

(v.20)

- Importance to guard the Truth
 - Timothy has two types of responsibility:
 - 1. Individual → guard your life & witness
 - 2. Overseer → guard the church & doctrine
 - All Christians have been “*entrusted*” with the Truth

- To have the Gospel revealed to you is a blessing
- The Gospel is spiritually lifesaving
- We must not skew, neglect, or undermine the Gospel message to others
- ****THEREFORE** → All Christians must “*guard*” their faith + doctrine + witness
- How to guard oneself & the Truth
 - 1. Avoid irreverent & empty speech
 - 2. Avoid contradictions from what is falsely called knowledge

(v.21)

- Why this is so important
 - “*By professing it, some people have departed from the faith.*”
 - Empty speech & contradicting Scripture leads to death!
 - Sin is not something to play w/
 - **CONTEXT:** *Paul’s initial warning*
 - 1 Timothy 1:3-4;6

³ As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine ⁴ or to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. These promote empty speculations rather than God’s plan, which operates by faith. ⁶ Some have departed from these and turned aside to fruitless discussion.

- **REMEMBER** → Paul began letter w/ this warning
 - **NOW** → Paul ends letter w/ this warning
 - ******Repetition emphasizes importance
 - Paul began & ends w/ same warning b/c anything but the full truth is damning
- **ILLUSTRATION:** *Poison in water*
 - A village gets all its water from a well
 - Someone places a few drops of poison in well
 - Even with just a few drops, all water will become poisoned
 - Eventually, the entire village will die
 - ****Like the few drops of poison, any acceptance of sin or contradiction to God's word, will, & ways will kill you**
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** Are you committed to guarding your life, witness and doctrine?
 - **Q:** Are you prepared to flee from any sin or contradiction to God's ways?

REITERATE BIG IDEA & MAIN POINTS:

(2 minute)

- **Big Idea:** Cling to Jesus – it's life or death!
- **Main Points:**
 - 1 – **Flee from sin** (v.11-16)
 - 2 – **Look to Jesus** (v.17-19)

○ 3 – **Live with purpose** (v.20-21)

• **Application:**

- **Q:** Do you have a reverence for the Lord and are you following Him with your whole heart?
- **Q:** Does your life reflect what you say you believe?
- **Q:** Are there signs of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, & gentleness in your life?
- **Q:** Are you pursuing & fighting the good fight?
- **Q:** If so, are you doing it in your own strength or resting in the Lords?
- **Q:** Are you taking God's call seriously and guarding your life from the pitfalls of sin (which lead to death)?
- ****Don't waste another day ignoring God's call or going through the religious motions...**
 - Turn to Jesus, follow Him, & live on mission!

CLOSE / PRAY:

(1 minutes)