

1 Timothy 6:11-16, 20-21

“O Man of God”

We have come to the last of our studies in First Timothy.

A) This is a very moving passage in which the Apostle Paul addresses young Pastor Timothy.

B) Paul had left Timothy all alone in the great city of Ephesus, with a challenging, demanding and dangerous responsibility,

1) He was to be the apostolic representative to the churches of the city.

C) If you have ever felt left alone with a great responsibility and hardly anybody to lean on, you know exactly how Timothy felt.

D) Paul wrote these letters to instruct & encourage Timothy!

1) And they have been preserved to instruct and encourage us.

RD V.11-16

Paul addresses Timothy in v.11 with an unusual title, calling him, "O man of God,"

A) That title was given to only a few men in the OT

B) Moses was one, / The Prophet who confronted Eli.

1) The Prophet who came to Bethel to pronounce judgment on Jeroboam. And then Elijah –

C) But in the NT only Timothy is addressed this way. 1) It must have meant a great deal to him to have the Apostle Paul call him **"a man of God."**

To be called "a man of God" is the greatest title that could be bestowed upon Timothy

A) That title combines two remarkable concepts:

B) On one hand you have Man, in his weakness, confusion, blindness and failure,

1) But behind that man you have God, in his majesty, his greatness and power.

C) Driving up to Oregon from California you can see a symbolic picture of this

1) Past Redding – You hit Shasta it doesn't take long before you see **MT Shasta**

D) Covered in white snow cap – it is an awesome site to see

1) But there at the Base of MT Shasta is a small cinder cone named Black Butte

Black Butte bears a remarkable resemblance to Shasta.

A) It almost looks as if someone made a model of the MT and stuck it at the **Base of Shasta.**

B) The two together present a picture of us & God

1) **We are like Black Butte** – small and insignificant in and of ourselves

C) But behind us a mighty majestic God – full of Power and Glory!

D) The glory of Christianity is that those two, man and God (**God in man**) are combined together.

1) This is the title that is bestowed on Timothy.

E) So Paul addresses Timothy by this very unique title. – Man of God

Now Before we consider Paul's instruction to Timothy – lets consider his description of God

A) V.15 again

He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

#1 He is the Ruling one! blessed and only Potentate

A) Potentate describes a mighty ruler who is unequalled in power and influence.

B) He is the One who alone has all power and strength, who rules over the universe from his throne in heaven.

#2 He is the Royal one! He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

A) The majesty of man fades in comparison to the glory of Jesus.

B) The richest, smartest, most influential people on earth are midgets next to King Jesus.

Phil 2:9-11

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#3 He is Ageless in his person! V.16 He alone has immortality.

A) That means deathlessness. He alone is able to conquer this great enemy, death

Jesus declared of himself in Rev 1:8 "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."**

B) Immortality belongs to Him and only those who belong to Him can have the hope of eternal life.

C) He is the Author and the finisher of our faith
The immortal one – Ageless in his person!

#4 He is Awesome in his presence!

A) V.16 He dwells in **unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see:**

B) What majesty that pictures! The sun is the greatest manifestation of light we know today.

C) Acts 26 Paul is recounting his conversion to King Agrippa –

1) Knocked off his horse and blinded by a light that was brighter than the **Sun at Noon day**.

D) John in Revelation 1 vision of Jesus

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,13 and in the midst of the seven lamp stands one like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.

John is so blown away at the awesome presence of Jesus he is rendered lifeless!

A) Jesus touches John and says – Don't be afraid – I have a job for you to do!

B) Not going to burn you up – but I want to burn in you – **Shine thru you !**

1) That is his word to us as well.

#5 He is arrayed in Praise To him be honor and everlasting power

A) Knowing who this Jesus is should bring forth a response - not primarily, “what can He do for me?”

B) but a response of simple and profound *worship* - declaring **honor and everlasting power** towards this great God! **Amen!**

C) **2nd Time in this book Paul breaks forth into Praise**

1 Tim 1:17

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

D) **Here is the Point in all of this Here is what we must remember:**

1) Although the calling we are called to us immense – but the God we are called to serve is far greater –

E) **He will enable us to do it!**

SO What did Paul want Timothy this man of God to do! 5 Instructions

- 1) Flee
- 2) Follow
- 3) Fight
- 4) Fasten
- 5) Be Faithful

#1 Flee

A) **There are times when running away is a mark of cowardice.** Nehemiah asked (Neh. 6:11).
“*Should such a man as I flee?*”

B) **But there are other times when fleeing is a mark of wisdom and a means of victory.**

1) Sometimes the **bravest** thing to do in the Christian life is **run away!**

C) Fleeing is what saved Joseph(Potiphar's wife) [no reason to stay & reason]

1) Flee youthful lust! Don't play with fire

D) Not Fleeing is what killed Samson(instead he enjoyed those late night couch sessions with /Delilah

1) Dating couples...flee that "late-night couch fellowship"]

E) Indulge in "*sanctified flight*"! {Kent Hughes}

So Paul isn't elevating cowardice! – It's a spiritual Strategy!

A) Did Jesus ever have to flee? (As a babe to Egypt)

B) Paul? – in Acts, they let down the city wall in a basket. (9:25)

C) Here it means, flee the bad doctrine, greed, the desire for riches - Over all Worldliness

D) The Command is in the *Present Imperative* indicates a **continuing action!**

"Keep on fleeing these things; make it a habit, a lifestyle."

E) Timothy is to be cut from a different cloth than those who live for riches and material wealth.

1) He is to **flee** those things and

#2 Follow: to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness –

A) The word Pursue = to follow hard after something with the idea of taking a hold of it.

B) Interesting that Paul used this same word in Phil. 3 when he described his life before his conversion

1) He said – he persecuted the Church – same word

Pursue – followed hard after the Church

C) Paul was a Driven man!

Now the thing that was driving him before was his conversion was his hatred of Christians

A) That is why he persecuted them- why he pursued them with a passion {

B) Then he met Christ { **Showed Grace** - Paul would say in Phil 3 – now I am pursuing Jesus –

1) Haven't caught him yet / haven't figured out why he apprehended me –

C) Isn't that the big question we all find ourselves asking – **Why me Lord ?**

1) Why did you chose to save me?

D) Paul didn't understand that – But he was going to spend the rest of his life – **Seeking Christ**

That is what he is encouraging Timothy to do here

Follow hard after Christ

A) Not enough to flee something – not enough that we stand against the worldliness

B) We need to stand for something that the world around us needs to see !

C) Paul mentions six virtues to pursue that give us a picture of Jesus! –

1) Picture of Christian Character

D) These Six virtues divided into 3 pairs

1st Christian Character is described: Righteousness and Godliness,

A) Righteousness and godliness cover both the vertical and horizontal relationships

B) Righteousness here speaks of a rightness toward others – treating others right

1) Being people of integrity in our dealings with others

C) Godliness speaks of the Vertical relationship

1) The word refers to a reverence for God – a respect for God that motivates our actions

D) You could sum up these first 2 virtues as giving God and men their due!

2nd Christian Character is distilled: Faith and Love !

A) Faith in God and a love for others!

B) Faith is simply confident trust in God for everything.

B) It involves loyalty to the Lord and unwavering confidence in **His power, purpose, plan, provision, and promise.**

C) Faith is the atmosphere in which the man of God exists.

1) He trusts God to keep and fulfill His Word.

D) Faith is to be pursued because it is constantly being attacked and undermined by the enemy

1) By the ideologies of this world

1 John 5:4 “What ever is born of God overcomes the World and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith”

E) Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word

Healthy faith produces love – the first command is the love God with all your

A) To do that takes faith –

B) The 2nd commandment is the by product of the first – Love others

C) So this is how Christian Character is distilled or produced –

1) Faith in God that leads to love for others

D) It is unrestricted and unrestrained, encompassing love for God, other believers, and non-Christians.

3rd Christian Character displayed: patience and gentleness

A) Patience = endurance – attitude that doesn't quit on others or on situations

B) It is born out of faith and out of our relationship with the Lord

C) Gentleness = a quality of tender, patient, self control in dealing with other people.

D) Flee worldliness and worldly thinking – and Pursue after God and the things of God!

#3 Fight !

A) This word doesn't speak so much of battle like in warfare

B) Here, the Greek word carries the idea of “*contending for a prize in the Olympic games.*”

1) Athletic competition requires discipline, training, & movement toward a specific goal.

C) It is the picture of the Runner who keeps running even when he feels like he can't run no more !

1) And then he reaches back for an extra burst as he nears the finish line

D) Fight through what? – The distractions and the temptations to compromise

“Fight through the tears at the graveside that are in the shape of question marks; Fight through that debilitating illness; Fight through that seemingly needless handicap; Fight through that severe frustration with your mate; Fight through the business decisions that went from bad to worse; Fight through your anti-Christian professor; Fight through the medias bombardment upon your mind; Fight through religious rationalism disguised as up-to-date Biblical scholarship; Fight through your doubts, fears, weaknesses, ulterior motives.”

#4 Fasten: V. 11 Lay hold

A) Lay hold. (lit.) to get a good grip on. – Like a Rock Climber – firm grip on the rock he is climbing

B) Lay hold of Eternal Life

1) He doesn't mean “*save yourself Timothy*”!

C) He means get a grip on eternal kind of living, Timothy!

1) “Grab it for all its worth, live it to the full!”

D) Grab on(fasten on), & don't stop grabbing! –

E) John Wong – Story

1) Living like the Lord is watching -

Story - Years ago a small boat capsized not far above Niagara Falls. 2 men were left struggling against the strong, downward current. A **thin rope** was flung out, & both managed to grasp it. Then a **large log** came floating by, & one man let go the rope to grab the log – it looked so much more substantial. Soon log & man were swept over the Falls; but the man who clung to the rope was saved.

It is that thin rope of faith which saves; you hold at this end, the Savior pulls at the other.

#5 Be Faithful V.20-21

O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

A) “**Timothy** be Faithful to guard **what has been committed to your trust.**”

B) **Trust** = a deposit, or thing consigned to one’s faithful keeping

C) We are not only the possessors but also the trustees of the faith! Of the gospel

How ? Guard by avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith.

AVOID! – guard by avoiding.

Stay focused on the deposit. Preach the Word; deliver the gospel.

Just test the **counterfeit currency** up against the **true currency**.