

“The Man of God”  
1 Timothy 6:11-16  
(Preached at Trinity, October 31, 2021)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Paul has been warning of the terrible snare of riches. Riches can seize your heart and draw you into a quagmire of lust and idolatry. The love of money has destroyed the lives of many. In the Parable of the Sower Jesus referred to the “deceitfulness of riches” that kept men from embracing the Gospel. They are deceived into believing that earthly riches are a pathway to happiness and contentment. But it's all a lie.  
**1 Timothy 6:9-10 NAU** - "But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."
2. Through Jesus Christ there is reconciliation and forgiveness. Through Jesus Christ there is meaning in life and hope for eternity. But worldly riches can blind men from seeing the glories of Christ and being satisfied in Him.
3. Now in **Verse 11** Paul makes a sharp contrast.  
In **Verses 9-10** Paul spoke of those who want to get rich; those with many foolish and harmful desires; those who love money and long for more of it.  
Now in **Verse 11** Paul uses the conjunction “but” as a powerful contrast:  
**1 Timothy 6:11 NAU** - "But flee from these things, you man of God"  
Literally, it reads, “But you, O man of God, flee these things.” This is how the NKJV translates it.
4. The title “Man of God” is a wonderful title. It signifies ownership. The man of God is God's personal possession, chosen of God, called of God, set apart by God. Timothy was God's man.
5. As you trace this title throughout Scripture it refers primarily to a spiritual leader – a man who represents God by proclaiming His Word. By giving Timothy this title Paul was placing him among those who throughout history had been called to preach the Word.
6. Yes, the title “Man of God” is unique, but it also points to all who are chosen of God and dedicated to His service.  
Are you a man of God? Are you a woman of God?  
Paul implies in his Second Epistle to Timothy that it refers to every believer.  
**2 Timothy 3:16-17 NAU** - "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."
7. There are many characteristics that identify such people, but in these verses gives us several.

I. A Man of God is known by what he flees from

**Verse 11** - "But flee from these things, you man of God"

A. The "man of God" is sharply contrasted with the false teachers

The grammar is significant in this passage.

In the Greek it is in the vocative case often translated with the interjection "o"

"O man of God." NASB – "you man of God."

It indicates the intensity of Paul's appeal. Flee from the ways of the false teachers.

It is in the imperative mood – a direct and powerful command.

1. The false teachers consent not to wholesome words – the man of God lives and breathes the Word of God.
2. The false teachers are proud – the man of God desires humility
3. The false teachers have an interest in controversial words that cause division and strife – The man of God preaches, teaches and defends the truth which is able to edify and build up
4. The false teachers are of depraved minds void of the truth – the man of God has the mind of Christ.
5. The false teachers are filled with the love of money and often wander away from the faith – the man of God is content with Christ.

B. The man of God must always be ready to flee from every appearance of evil.

**1 Corinthians 6:18** – "Flee immorality."

**1 Corinthians 10:14** - "Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."

**2 Timothy 2:22** - "Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

1. The immediate danger in this passage is associated with loving money
2. The man of God must flee from the temptation of allowing his heart to be drawn after riches.
  - a. It is an ever-present danger. Materialism is always before us. People display their earthly treasures and pretend these things are the true source of meaning and happiness in this world.
  - b. Riches promise us the world but fail to deliver

II. A Man of God is known by what he pursues –

**1 Timothy 6:11 NAU** - "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness."

The Christian flees from all that is evil. He flees from carnal lusts. But there is more to Christianity than what we avoid. It isn't just avoiding what is forbidden. The Christian runs towards the virtues that define the Christian life. The word refers to haste, being zealous for something.

There is a similar exhortation in 2 Timothy:

**2 Timothy 2:22 NAU** - "pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

Again, Paul is merely describing Biblical Christianity. He is describing those who call upon Christ from a pure heart. Is he describing you?

A. He pursues righteousness - δικαιοσύνη

1. Paul uses a legal term that describes uprightness according the Law. The man of God pursues those things that are right according to God's Law. Legal uprightness.

2. This righteousness is the fruit of our union with Christ.  
**Philippians 1:11 NAU** - "having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."
  3. Those in leadership must especially guard themselves
    - a. Paul told the Ephesian elders:  
**Acts 20:28 NAU** - "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers"
    - b. We saw this in **Chapter 4**  
**1 Timothy 4:16 NAU** - "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."
  4. The man of God makes righteousness his high pursuit.
- B. Godliness** – It's the same word we saw in **Verses 3,5,6**  
Over half of the NT uses of this word are found in this epistle.
1. It has to do with attitudes and motives. It refers to a high reverence for God – an ever present belief that God is watching
  2. It's the heart that sees sin as God sees sin.
  3. It's the heart that loves the things God loves – His glory, His people, His work, His church, His Law. Godliness is God-likeness.
- C. Faith** – a confident trust in God
1. In His purpose – God's plan
  2. In His provision – the things He has provided  
**Verse 6 – "But godliness with contentment is great gain"**
  3. In His providence – the particular situation of your life  
The man of God pursues a lively trust in God. He doesn't waver. He is careful to guard against doubts and fears.
- D. Love** - ἀγάπη love is a volitional willful love. It is a love of choice not feeling
1. If love is an act of the will it must be something we pursue with all our heart.
  2. We express our love to Christ by our obedience  
**John 14:15** – "If you love me, keep my commandments."
  3. We love our brothers by the selfless giving of ourselves
- E. Perseverance** - ὑπομονή - Perseverance is a work of God's preserving grace. But it is also characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose even the greatest trials and sufferings. He presses on with great energy. He is steadfast. He flees from anything that threatens his endurance.
- F. Gentleness** – a deliberate gentleness with others.
1. The word refers to meekness. It demands humility
  2. This is one of the fruits of the indwelling Spirit. It is the work of the Holy Spirit within us but we must pursue it with our whole heart.

- III. The man of God is known for what he flees from and what he pursues  
 The Man of God is also known by what he fights for – "Fight the good fight of faith"
- A. The Christian life is a battle – We are in combat with Satan, the World, the Flesh
1. Many professing Christians are completely unaware of the battle. They are unengaged.
  2. Too many seek ease and comfort even in the midst of the war. This is a most dangerous place for a Christian to be. The Christian life is a life of warfare.
  3. A life of ease is not Biblical Christianity  
**Acts 14:22 NAU** - "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."
  4. Every Christian has been enlisted as a soldier. Paul saw this in his own life.  
**2 Timothy 2:3-4 NAU** - "Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier."
  5. Paul describes his own dedication to the war.  
**2 Timothy 4:7 NAU** - "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;"
  6. The Word for Fight is ἀγωνίζομαι from which we get our word agonize
- B. Faith here refers to “the faith” the whole body of Christian doctrine  
 The man of God must be willing to contend for the truth  
**Jude 1:3 NAU** - "I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints."
1. In **Chapter 4** Paul wrote of those who would depart from the faith  
**1 Timothy 4:1 NAU** - "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,"
  2. In **Verse 10** Paul writes that some lovers of money would wander away from the faith.
  3. The man of God contends for the faith. He fights the good fight of faith. He presses on in the faith. It's a good fight and he wages it valiantly.
- IV. Finally, the Man of God is known by what he takes hold of  
**1 Timothy 6:12 NAU** - "take hold of the eternal life to which you were called"
- A. He pursues eternal life with all his heart. Eternal life is a present reality.
1. He maintains an eternal perspective  
 The man of God lives under the reality of eternity.  
 He keeps a proper perspective.  
**Philippians 3:20 NAU** - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"
  2. He keeps his eye upon the ever-present reality of Christ's return  
**1 Timothy 6:14 NAU** - "that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ"
  3. Eternal life in its fullness does not come until our battle is complete. We maintain vigilance knowing that our battle is not over. It's like the runner stretching towards the finish line.

- B. The man of God strives to live consistently with his calling – God’s sovereign call to salvation.
1. The man of God does not become bogged down with trivial matters. We are in a great spiritual struggle with eternal consequences. These are the things worth fighting for, contending for.
  2. As he fights the good fight of faith he strives to be faithful to the One who called Him.  
**1 Timothy 6:14 NAU** - "that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,"
  3. In **Verse 14** Paul tells Timothy to “keep the commandment.” This refers to the will of God expressed by His Law. This is at the heart of righteousness  
**Psalms 40:8 NAU** - "I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."  
**Psalms 119:97 NAU** - "O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day."
  4. Timothy was to maintain a life faithful to the Word of God.  
**1 Timothy 4:6 NAU** - "In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following."  
**1 Timothy 6:20-1:1 NAU** - "O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly *and* empty chatter *and* the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge "-- <sup>21</sup> which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you. "
- C. The man of God dedicates himself to God’s Word.
1. We must look to ourselves before we can teach others.
  2. Paul says we should keep it "without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,"
  3. We must be always mindful that we are under the scrutiny of God. We must live our life before His presence.  
**1 Timothy 6:13 NAU** - "I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate,"  
God gave you your life – how are you spending it

#### Conclusion:

1. Are you God’s man? Are you God’s woman?  
--What is it that you are fleeing from? Are you fleeing from every appearance of evil?  
--What is it that you are pursuing? Is your life characterized by a pursuit of holiness?  
**Matthew 5:6 NAU** - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."  
--What is it you are fighting for? Are you in a great spiritual warfare? Do you feel the intensity of the battle?  
-- What are you faithful to? Are you committed to keeping the commands of God?
2. John Wesley’s favorite definition of Christianity:  
“Christianity is the life of God in the soul of man.”  
Can people see God in you?