

1 Timothy 6:11–16

¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

¹³ I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

¹⁴ that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, 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.

Who Do We Serve? 1 Timothy 6:3-16

INTRO:

The Apostle Paul closed his first epistle to Timothy by issuing a strong warning and giving instruction to Timothy about how he should live. Finally, He gave us a glimpse of our God which should be our motivation to please Him.

I. Beware of the Seduction of Temporary Things (v. 3-10)

A. The Apostle Paul warned Timothy about the things that do not last. Let us do a flyover of this text by simply quoting some representative verses. First, in **verses 3-5**, Paul warned about people with the wrong doctrine and wrong motivation. They taught contrary to what Jesus taught and they assume that being godly brings material gain.

B. Paul took a moment then to underline the truth.

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” (v. 6-7)

Money and stuff do not last into eternity.

C. Finally, Paul wrote that wanting to be rich is dangerous because, ***“The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*** (v. 10).

II. Commit Yourself to Eternal Realities (v. 11-13)

“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,” (1 Timothy 6:11-13)

A. Paul issued four imperatives which Timothy must practice if he is to escape the seduction of the temporal. The first imperative is negative.

“But you, O man of God, flee these things.” (v. 11a)

Timothy needs to run when the temptation to live for that which was passing away tried to grip him.

B. Doing just the negative is not enough. Instead, Timothy needed to pursue the realities he could not see. These qualities were things that the Lord needed to help him attain.

“Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, [meekness].” (v. 11b)

Next he must continue to ***“Fight the good fight of faith.”*** Finally, he needed to ***“lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*** (v. 12b). Take hold of it and don't let it go. Recognize its value and think about it often.

III. Because He is Coming Back Again (v. 14-16)

“that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 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 Timothy 6:14–16)

A. We have seen how the Apostle Paul issued a warning to Timothy to not be taken in by the temporal things, but be committed to eternal realities, because Jesus is coming again. These last 3 verses, **vs. 14-16** are about our motivation. We commit ourselves to eternal things because of Who we serve and because He is coming again.

B. Paul charged Timothy to keep the imperatives concerning these realities because of the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we live our lives seeking to practice

realities others cannot see, hear, touch or feel, we do it because of another unseen reality. Jesus is coming again. The Lord's appearance, His coming, is not arbitrary. ***"[The Lord Jesus' coming] He will manifest in His own time."*** (v. 15a)

God the Father scheduled Christ's return on the timeline of history. When the time comes, Christ will be displayed.

C. The focus now shifts to God Himself. Keep in mind what is said of the Father is also true of the Son. He is, ***"He who is the blessed and only [Sovereign,] the King of kings and Lord of lords."*** (v. 15b). The word translated ***"sovereign"*** is built on the Greek root from which we get dynamite. Contrary to what you might have heard or read, the root means ***"to be able."*** This word describes the ruler of people who can do whatever He wants to do. J. B. Phillips hit it right on the head when he translated it, ***"He is the blessed controller of all things."*** The one we serve, the Lord God, is the creator and ruler of everything. Isaiah reminds us of this truth many times.

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God'" (Isaiah 44:6).

D. If we missed the point, our Apostle repeats it. The One Who sent His Son into this world the first time is the King over all who call themselves king and Lord (master) over all who would call themselves lord. There is no one else like Him. You cannot go over His head.

E. Paul then adds another dimension. ***"Who alone has immortality."*** Eternal life comes from Him alone.

F. We cannot see Him.

"who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see." (v. 16a).

He is invisible. Yet, He is real and we will spend eternity with Him. Peter's words come rushing into our minds,

"Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory," (1 Peter 1:8).

What do we take from this?

1. Don't live for temporal things now. They are not eternal. They also will lead us into all kinds of sin.
2. Run from the temptation to live for what we can see. Pour out your effort to take hold of eternal realities.
3. Remember Him Who is the blessed controller of all things. He is what life is all about.

My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness