**FLEE, FOLLOW, HAVE FAITH AND STAY FOCUSED**

***1 Timothy 6:11-16 King James Version (KJV)***

***11But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.12Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.13I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;14That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:15Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;16Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see:***

**Intro.**

 A. The Bible was written for everybody, but occasionally there are

 some specific instructions for those who could be described as

 "men or women of God." Timothy was such a man. He was a Christian, so

 that made him a child of God. He was also a preacher and preachers

 along with the prophets of the O.T., were frequently called "men or women

 of God."

 B. The truth is, that anyone who is devoted to serving God can be

 called **"a man of God" or "a woman of God."** These are the people for whom the

 Bible was really written and they seek to put it’s principles into practice so

 that they might be" completely furnished unto every good work."

***2 Tim. 3:16-176All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:17That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.***

 C. In our portion of scriptures, some instructions were given to the preacher

 Timothy and all others who would seek to please God

These instructions include some things that we all should pay attention to!

**I. SOME THINGS TO FLEE FROM.** (v.11). "Flee these things."

 A. "Flee" here means "to be a fugitive, to run away from"!

 B. What are some of "these things"that Paul had in mind that He has just been talking about:

1. **Teachers of a"different doctrine".**

***1Tim 6:3-5). 3If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;4He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,5Perverse disputing of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.***

1. **Desiring to be rich; love of money.**

***1Tim 6:9,10But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.10For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.***

 **3.Timothy was to flee youthful lusts.**

***2 Tim.2:2222Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.***

 **4. We are to flee fornication especially in our minds.**

***1 Cor. 6:188Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.***

***Matt. 5:27-28 8But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.***

 **5. We are to flee idolatry.**

***1 Cor. 10:1414Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.***

**II. SOME THINGS TO FOLLOW.**

1. "Follow" here means "to pursue diligently; to earnestly endeavor to acquire."

 It is not a lacadaisical following after. It is"getting serious about living

 the Christian life.

 B. Paul instructs Timothy and all men and women of God to follow

 After the following…

 1. **Righteousness** - The Christian should never be concerned about what

 is the right thing to or not to do; he or she should already be in regard to

 God and fellowmen.

***1 John 3:7 7Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.***

 2. **Godliness** - This is putting God at the center of our thoughts and actions.

 **a. It's how we want to live our lives**

**1 Tim 2:1-3*.  I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;2For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.3For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;***

 **b. It's how women of God want to dress and live**

**(1 Tim 2:9-10*). 9In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;10But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.***

 **c. It's something we exercise ourselves in**

**(1 Tim 4:7-8)*But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.8For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.***

 d. **Coupled with contentment, it is great gain**

**(1 Tim 6:6)**. But godliness with contentment is **great** **gain**.

 3. **Faith** - Heb.11:6

 a. Faith that works through love. Gal.5:6

 b. Faith that holds on through thick and thin.

 4. **Love** - For God, Christ, Truth, Fellow Christian, and the

 Lost. 1 Cor. 13:1-8a

 5. **Patience** - If you don't diligently pursue persistence and

 steadfastness, it will escape you.

 a. There can be no quitting when we begin the Christian

 Race. Heb.12:1

 6. **Meekness** ("gentleness") - Jesus was meek ("not quick to

 retaliate in face of provocation") and gentle. What a noble

 trait for us to pursue. Some of us might have to run harder

 to catch this one!

**III. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF THE FAITH**

***EPH.6:12 12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.***

1. **This "fight" is like the athletic contest, wrestling, boxing,etc.**
2. Paul said he fought not as one beating the air.

***1 Cor. 9:2626I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:***

1. **We are in a life and death struggle with Satan.**

**Eph. 6:10-17 10Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

1. **We use spiritual weapons in spiritual warfare.**

**2 Cor.10:3-53For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:4(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)5Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

1. **We are to fight to uphold, defend, and proclaim the faith**.

***Jude 3Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.***

 1. Let us contend earnestly for the faith with love for the Lord and the souls of men and women.

1. There are some kinds of fighting that are wrong.
2. 1 Tim. 6:4,5; 1:3-7; 2 Tim. 2:23; Titus 3:9-11
3. ***9But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.10A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;11Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.***
4. Teachers in their Bible classes should not be asking questions which

cannot be answered.

1. Always asking or dealing with questions which fall in the realm of

 speculation or opinion causes contention.

 (3) We need things which edify, not things which discourage us.

IV. **FOCUS** (6:12 - "Lay hold on the life eternal, whereunto you were

 called") This is the reward for fighting the good fight of the

 faith, fleeing worldliness, and following godliness.

1. It is easy to forget what being a Christian is all about. It's about spending

 eternity with God and all the people of God.

 1. It's why we make the "good confession"

 2. It's why we are baptized into Christ.

 3. It's why we strive to be faithful to the end.

***Rev. 2:10 0Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.***

 4. It's why we keep the Lord's commandments until He comes

 B. Jesus made the good confession before Pilate

 1. Jesus is the object of our confession.

 2. Though we can't literally "see" Him who dwells in light

 unapproachable, with the eye of faith we keep him directly

 in our line of vision.

 a. He is to be revered and respected.

 C. We must keep ourselves focused on the goal.

 1. Let us "lay hold" on the hope of heaven, and not turn loose

 of it for anything or anybody.

**Conclusion.**

 A. All of these things (Flee, Follow, Fight, Focus) point to the seriousness of our life in Christ.

 1. Are you serious about being a Christian?

 2. Are you a Christian? Have you made the good confession in the sight of

 witnesses, like Timothy and Christ? Why not now?

1. Tell the Lord you're ready to flee the things of the world,ready to follow

after righteousness, godliness, etc., ready to fight the good fight of faith, and set your goal on going to heaven.