

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

1 TIMOTHY 6:11-21

LESSON: THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH— February 25, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

I Timothy 6:1-10 Paul is writing this letter to Timothy, a young minister, concerning his teaching (**6:3-5**), his living (**6:6-10**), his goals (**6:11-16**), gives a charge (**6:13-14**), his duty (**6:17-19**), and concludes with a plea for faithfulness (**6:20a**), a plea for separation (**6:20b-21a**), and a benediction (**6:21b**).

¹Paul is telling the slaves to maintain an attitude of respect as a testimony to their unbelieving masters (**6:1-2**). If a master is a Christian they should give even better respect to him. ²Paul told Timothy the marks of false teachers need to be recognized (**6:3-5**). The first sign of the false teachers was their *"doctrine,"* that which was not according to the Word of God (**6:3**). We are instructed not to deny, add to or take away from God's Word. The second sign was pride (**6:4**), one filled with himself. *"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil pride, and arrogance."* (Prov. 8:13). The third sign was his words (**6:4**). The words of a false teacher bring disputes, envy, strife and evil doing. Instead, you and I are to edify one another (Eph. 4:29).

Paul tells Timothy that true godliness with contentment is something every man should seek after (**6:6**). This contentment makes one independent of outward circumstances because of his inner resources. This means he will be able to maintain a proper attitude in the midst of unfavorable as well as favorable circumstances. We did not bring anything into this world at birth and we will not take anything out of it when we die (**6:7**). We need to learn to be satisfied when our actual needs of food, clothing and shelter are met (**6:8**). Many get sidetracked and waste their lives just seeking to accumulate money and the things it will buy (**6:9**). Money in itself is not evil, but when a person makes it his chief motive for living, it becomes evil (**6:10**).

LESSON: I. HELPFUL INSTRUCTIONS 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-16

6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. From verses 9-10 deals with those that will be rich will fall into temptation and a snare. The instruction for the **man of God**, which is what Timothy is called as a minister of God, is told to flee from the passion of wealth; flee from the love of money; run away from all those things covered in those verses. But, in contrast a good man; a man of God; the minister of God is given the instruction to follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

- **A--** Righteousness means being right with God. **B--** Righteousness means doing right.
- **Godliness** means to live in the reverence and awe of God; to live seeking to be like God; Christlike; seeking to possess the very character, nature, and behavior of God

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/i-timothy-6-1/>

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/i-timothy-6-3/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

- **Faith** means both to believe and to be faithful; to learn to trust God more and more; to be faithful to God more; to be loyal, obedient, and attached to God; pleasing God in all that he does.
- **Love** means having that agape love. This love only comes from God. It is a selfless and sacrificial love. This is the love of the will rather than emotions.
- **Patience** means to be steadfast, to endure, and to persevere.
- **Meekness** means to be gentle, tender, humble, mild, considerate, but a strong state of mind. Meekness has the strength to control and discipline, and it does so at the right time. He denies himself and gives utmost consideration to others. He shows a control and righteous anger against injustice and evil. A meek man forgets and lives for others because of what Christ has done for him.

To follow after these things means to run after; to run swiftly after; to hotly pursue; to seek eagerly and earnestly. It has the idea of aiming at and pursuing until something is gained; of never giving up until we have reached our goal.

6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. The man of God must fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life. This is a picture of an athletic contest. The word "**fight**" means to agonize, struggle, battle, contend, and fight. The contest is the whole life of the believer striving to win "*the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil.4:13). Every believer has this same calling. It is a good fight, whereas, the fight for money is evil (6:10). The believer is in a desperate struggle for eternal life, and that is the goal. As Paul's life was coming to an end, he said, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*" 2Tim.4:7. This means he didn't quit. No doubt there were a lot of obstacles on the course. But his faith in Jesus Christ held strong. So, "**Lay hold of (or on)**" means to catch or gain possession of. Timothy had already professed (declared) a good profession (occupation) before many witnesses and that is as a minister of the Gospel of Christ. This earth as we know it will past away, but eternal life is forever. Can we see that we have been called into the eternal life of God? Let nothing break your concentration of your calling, and what you are to lay hold on. Let the prize of eternal life grip you so, that you are able to tell it everywhere you go, because whatever you are striving to receive, you will lay hold of. This is forever and ever: to profess the Good News which is a good profession before many witnesses throughout this lifetime.

6:13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;— Paul is saying I give you orders; I command thee; I urge you in the sight of God. A charge is more like a military command. In the military, Paul is the one in charge. And he's giving the charge to Timothy in the sight of God. It is as though God was right there standing and giving it, and observing the heart. **The four charges here are:**

1. **Flee** the passion for wealth (**6:11**).
2. **Follow** after the things of God (**6:11**).
3. **Fight** the fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life (**6:12**).
4. **Keep** this charge—keep this commandment (**6:13-16**).

This is not for Paul's sake, but God is the One who quickens all things. The word "**quicken**" means to

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

give life, to bring forth alive. He is the source of all things. And this charge is before Christ Jesus who testified before Pontius Pilate, who was the Roman ruler in the city of Jerusalem, giving a good answer when asked *if He was the King of the Jews. He said that His kingdom was not of this world. And thou sayest that I am a king. To this was I born...that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.* John 18:33b, 36-37. This is how Christ replied about His kingship. And when Timothy makes the confession that Christ Jesus is King, he is laying hold of eternal life; his calling to profess before many witnesses, for we see that God quickens and Christ brings truth to life.

6:14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:— If we are ministers of God, we are to keep this commandment without spot (free from stain; without fault); unrebukable (not deserving rebuke; clear from shame) having an eye to Jesus' second coming; until His appearance, when we must all give an account of the talents we have been entrusted with. Only God knows the day and the hour Jesus will appear. God never changes. His standards are high. And for Paul to command Timothy to such, means no one can find fault even when they try. Jesus knows the true heart at His appearance.

6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;— And in His own season Jesus will appear at the proper time. He is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. "**Potentate**" means a person who possesses great power, as a sovereign, monarch, or ruler.

6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

- Christ alone has immortality. No person shall ever live forever apart from Jesus Christ.
- And dwells in the transcendent and unapproachable light of God's glory. No person shall ever approach God or dwell in the light of God's presence apart from Jesus Christ.

II. IMPORTANT COMMANDS 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-21

6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;— This is the final lesson and study in the book of First Timothy. The lessons have been many and the studies very helpful and stirring. This last lesson and study is no exception. It is a strong charge both to the rich of this world and to the ministers of the gospel. In this charge is to appeal and beg the rich person, but he is to do it so strongly that it is a command. The rich person is approached in love and tenderness, but is expected to do exactly what God says. This boils down to trust! There is nothing wrong with being rich, if those who are rich are rich toward God (Luke 12:21). Five strong charges are given to the rich:

1. **Charge the rich person not to be highminded.** This means having *exalted principles or feelings*, proud, or being arrogant. The world honors money; wants more and seeks more money.
2. **Charge the rich person not to trust in the uncertainty of riches.** The world's economy is never certain. It's fluctuating up and down every few years. Even if a person can keep his wealth in

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

this life, disease or accident can happen overnight, and the person's wealth does him no good whatsoever. Here today, gone tomorrow. There is an uncertainty of riches!

3. **Charge the rich person to trust in God.** God actually exists despite the thoughts of the rich. And God alone possess every good and perfect gift. And if we want more and more of the good things of this life, we must trust in God.

6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;—

4. **Charge the rich person to do good, and be rich in good works.** His good works would be to readily distribute his wealth and be generous in it. Too many rich people close their ears when there is a need, but they are to willingly communicate or give of what they have to those in need, that is, connect and transfer to others.

6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

5. **Charge the rich person to lay up wealth for the world to come.** In this way when the rich person has the proper attitude about riches and the use of money, they will reduce their wealth on earth when they readily give and be generous from the heart to others. Thereby, they will be able to store up treasures in heaven as a good foundation for eternal life.

J Paul Getty was not storing a good foundation nor laying hold on eternal life. This is the opposite of what we are to do concerning our wealth (*if we were a billionaire*).

In the marriage of **his fifth wife**, they had had a son named Timothy, who died in 1956 from a brain tumor at age 12. Louise Getty later recounted that J. Paul had scolded her for spending too much money on the boy's cancer treatment.

From the son of his fourth marriage: In June 1973, the oil baron's grandson John Paul Getty III was kidnapped in Rome by 'Ndrangheta gangsters, who demanded a ransom payment of \$17 million, \$94 million in today's money, for his safe release. J. Paul refused to pay on the basis that "I have 14 other grandchildren and if I pay one penny now, then I'll have 14 kidnapped grandchildren." He finally agreed to pay part of a reduced ransom of \$2.9 million, and lent his son John Paul Getty Jr. the rest of the cash to be paid back with interest. John Paul Getty III was released in December 1973, but he was never the same again, suffering severe psychological trauma for the rest of his life. J. Paul died at his Surrey mansion in 1976 at age 83, leaving a fortune of \$4 billion, which is \$17.3 billion in today's money. Most of this was channeled into the J. Paul Getty Trust, which is now the world's wealthiest art institution. They said he was mean, stingy, and an unhappy billionaire.

6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:— Paul pleas for Timothy's faithfulness as the requirement of a steward (1 Cor.4:2). "*Keep that which is committed to thy trust*" meaning the sound teachings he has received and the assignments for service he has been placed in. "**Keep**" means to guard in the military sense. To each of us are given gifts and callings (Rom.11:33). They are sacred. They must not be taken lightly. So he is to avoid arguments-- avoiding profane and vain babblings—false and empty talk. So, those that are in opposition of the truth will speak like they have knowledge of the truth, but they are not to be given a platform to your ear. I'm not going to call any name, but we know one in the highest position of government. Don't waste time lending your ear, for that speech changes constantly because it is false.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

6:21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen. Those who have really professed they have knowledge of what they're talking about have really erred, meaning stumbled and made mistakes in their faith because of unsound doctrines, no organization, no good communication, and no trust in God! They don't really have understanding of the God's truth. So, in closing, Paul speaks that God's grace; God's unmerited divine assistance be with Timothy, and so be it.

SUMMARY:

³Paul shares with Timothy three principles that will bring success in the ministry, if they are followed.

1. **Flee (6:11a)** the love of money and what it brings –from false doctrine and godless practices.
2. **Follow (6:11b)** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness.
3. **Fight (6:12)** the fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life.
4. **Keep (6:13-16)** this charge—keep this commandment.

As we flee from the things that tie us to this world we then yearn more for His return (**6:11-16**).

⁴Paul gives instructions for rich Christians.

1. **Be Humble, Not Highminded (6:17a)**. We are not owners; we are stewards.
2. **Trust God, Not Wealth (6:17b)**. Riches are uncertain, not only in their value (which changes constantly), but the living God is able to richly give all things to enjoy.
3. **Do Good Willingly (6:18-19)**. A generous heart stores up for heaven by giving on earth.
4. **Guard What God has Placed in Your Care (6:20-21)**. It is an awesome responsibility! (**6:17-21**)

³ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/i-timothy-6-11/>

⁴ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/i-timothy-6-17/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>