



## BIBLE TEXT | 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-16

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**11** But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before[a] Pontius Pilate made the good confession, **14** to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-16

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AUTHOR: BETTY BACHTEL

Have you ever made a New Year's resolution to lose weight, begin an exercise program, or commit to be in God's Word more? It is easy to make a resolution, and even fun to begin, but it is not easy to hang in over the long haul. The Christian life is a marathon, not a fifty yard dash. Starting well is easy; finishing well is another matter. This passage shows us Paul instructing and motivating Timothy to run his marathon with the Lord and how to go the distance.

Timothy was in a hard situation because he had to confront the false teachers who had arisen among the Ephesus church. He was young and he struggled with a timid and reserved personality. Right off, Paul commands Timothy "But you, O man of God, flee!" "Man of God" was a customary designation of the great leaders of Israel (Deuteronomy 33:1; 1 Samuel 9:6). To be called that means the man belongs to God. It points to an individual who represents God by proclaiming His Word. So Paul told Timothy to flee, not just to fight or stand firm. Do real men flee? In this instance, Paul knew the way to victory here would be to flee the love of money, false doctrine, and worldliness. Paul is telling Timothy to flee from every aspect of foolish ungodliness that has been made manifest by false teachers. We are to heed those same commands!

# A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

Paul was like Timothy's coach at half time in a rough game as he reminded Timothy of the game plan. Even though not easy, Timothy is told to finish the race. As Timothy runs away from wickedness, he is to run towards righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. The first two, "righteousness" and "godliness," I believe, describe objective obedience. Either we are living righteously and in devotion to God or we are not. Obviously we sin, but our pursuit should not be sin, but righteousness. A godly person lives with an awareness of God's holy presence. The next two words, "faith" and "love", describe active obedience. Faith is the simple "trust" that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. Do we trust Him? If so, it will be shown by our "love". It is by our love that others will know we belong to Christ. The last two words, "perseverance and gentleness" describe submissive obedience. Perseverance means to endure, stay strong, do not give up. Gentleness indicates not only a gentle demeanor but also a gentle response as we face those who offend us or Christ. How well are you doing at these?

Paul gets very personal with Timothy. He motivates Timothy by reminding him of God's greatness. He tells Timothy that he can minister with boldness because God is so incredibly awesome! Ministry and life are motivated by the greatness of God. "I charge you" means to continually remember God is with us; God is everywhere all the time. It is God who gives life, such is the miracle in the birth of a child. God also sustains life, protects life, and gives life after physical death to those who accept Him. Timothy is to have courage like Christ did when he went before Pontius Pilate. Jesus made it clear to Pilate that He is King (Matthew 27:11)!

We are to stand tall in the face of battle, never turn our back, and persevere. Paul concludes with a charge to Timothy to keep the command, referring to the commands Christ has given to his church. It is the gospel and all that goes with it. We are to keep God's Word, obey his commands, and follow the orders of Christ without compromising. How long are we to pursue obedience to God's commands? Verse 14 says until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. What a powerful motivation this should be for all Christians. Jesus is coming back soon. Lastly, Paul describes for Timothy awesome qualities of God. Christ is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, Lord of lords. God is the only One who is immortal and no one has ever seen Him nor will anyone ever see Him. God is holy. God loves me. God loves you. God desires to be our Savior!! If Christ is Lord, what reason do we have not to persevere?

## Questions:

1. Have you lost your motivation to live your Christian life or are you running the race full speed ahead?
2. If today was your last day on earth, would your actions of the day be Christ worthy? Would He be pleased?
3. The year 2020 has been a difficult year for our country and for many personally. What motivates you to continue living? Reflect on the past week. List blessings you encountered. Who provided those blessings?