Notes of YF message on 5 Sep 2026
– Let No Man Despise Thy Youth (6): "Flee Also Youthful Lusts"
Text: 2 Timothy 2:22 Memory Verse: Romans 6:11 Speaker: Rev Dr Jose Lagapa
Notetaker: Toh Yih Chern

Fleeing youthful lusts is a very important topic. The phrase *"youthful lusts"* (2 Tim 2:22) particularly refer to the sinful acts and attitudes of immature people, seen both in the young, and in adults. There is an element in "youthful lusts" that describes a hastiness and ease by which one follows after sinful passions due to a lack of experience and want of discernment.

The word *"also"* in *"flee also youthful lust"* is an emphasis, telling Timothy that he all the more must flee youthful lusts, knowing that he is in Christ. To flee youthful lusts is not just to turn away or step back, but to run away and shun completely, as far away as from that which causes danger.

An example of one fleeing youthful lusts is Joseph in Genesis 39, who refused Potiphar's wife out of a fear of God. He repeatedly said, *"...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"* (Gen 39:9). We are not to engage with lusts, including sexual sins, because it is evil and wicked in the sight of God, not because of fear of consequences from man.

However, it is not enough to just flee from what is wrong. We must also *"follow righteousness."* The word *"follow"* comes from the word "persecution," which means to pursue and run after. Thus, to *"follow righteousness"* is to labour and spend all our strength and energy to hold onto righteousness. Paul was not referring to what we can do when he mentioned *"righteousness."* Instead, he was referring to the righteousness imputed on us by Christ. We are being clothed, robed and covered by the garment of righteousness of Christ. We are in His uniform. Thus, we must make sure our actions rightly represent what Jesus gave to us by His grace. Jesus suffered and died for us, giving up His life on the cross for us, being pierced and crucified for the penalty of our sins. Let us never forget the anguish our Saviour suffered to earn righteousness for us on earth, and let us never forget that our salvation is completely by the grace of God. Indeed, even the faith to believe came from Him. We must love the way He loved us. Let us also pursue peace that comes by abstaining from sins and being right with God.

This pursuit of righteousness, faith, charity, and peace must be done *"with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."* We who name ourselves with the Lord, and identify ourselves with Christ and His family, just like a surname, must with deep sincerity surround ourselves in fellowship with fellow brethren.

If we do not pursue righteousness, we will ultimately end up going back to youthful lusts. We must also pursue righteousness with fellow believers, to point one another to Christ. We are to be *"dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus our Lord"* (Rom 6:11). Let us flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness as we fellowship with fellow saints, purging ourselves of iniquity, so that we will be *"vessel*(s) *unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work"* (2 Tim 2:21).

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++