



Faith Baptist Church of Cabot, Arkansas
Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study
February 24, 2010

Lesson Twenty – Flee and Fight
1 Timothy 6:11-16

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, 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.

Introduction

The Apostle Paul's counsel for Timothy, a man of God, is good counsel for us all. The man of God is to model the kind of character God expects from us all. So let us learn from Paul's counsel to Timothy what is worth pursuing and what is worth fighting for.

Exegesis

❖ Flight and Pursuit

- Flee – run away from

Flee these things: pride, ignorance, envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings and greed. (6:3-10) Take flight from these attitudes.

- Pursue – run after

- Righteousness: the righteous life that corresponds with one's righteousness in Christ; live right with men because you are right with God.
- Godliness: a reverential attitude toward God that is evident in how one lives; a passion for God, not the world.
- Faith: a trust in God, His character and His will that would cause one to abandon the world and cling to God.
- Love: a whole hearted loving commitment to God; affection for God.
- Patience: patient endurance in adverse and trying circumstances.
- Gentleness: a mild, tender and kind demeanor toward others.

Upward: Righteousness and Godliness

Inward: Faith and Love

Outward: Patience and Gentleness

❖ Fight

- The good fight

Patience and gentleness do not mean that we are not engaged in a conflict. Patience and gentleness did not mean that Timothy was not to comply with Paul's earlier instructions to confront false teachers. Rather pursuing gentleness would help make Timothy calm and collected in directly and bluntly confronting sin and error.

But the fight under consideration is not so much about Timothy and others, but Timothy and himself. Our greatest battles are not fought without, but within. The good fight is the fight we all fight between what we flee and what we pursue. It is a fight of faith – will we trust God so that we turn loose of this world in pursuit of His Kingdom or will we be held down by our love for and reliance on the things of the world?

➤ Laying hold of eternal life

“Laying hold of eternal life” is not about getting saved. Timothy had already made a good confession in front of many witnesses. Taking hold of eternal life is appropriating God's grace and power to every area of our lives so that we live the liberated and abundant life. It is the difference between being saved and living saved. It is the Gospel as the rule of life.

❖ For God

➤ Live as Jesus before the Father

God, the giver of all life – creative life, resurrection life, abundant life – is watching. Fear Him and honor Him even as the Son of God did in His hour of trial. Trust that the giver of life will sustain your life regardless of what men do to you.

➤ Live ready for the appearance of Jesus

Obey this commandment; let the Gospel rule all of your life, so that you will be ready when Jesus appears. What else will matter in His presence?

The manifestation of Jesus will manifest the greatness of God. And in that manifestation all who trusted in and relied on God, fleeing evil and pursuing righteousness will be vindicated. And all who trusted in and relied on the things of the world will be put to shame. Trusting in His vast greatness gives us factory in the good fight of faith.

Application

1. Do you possess eternal life?
2. Have you taken hold of eternal life?
3. Are you fleeing and fighting?