

I TIM. 6:11 - 21

In verses 3 - 10 Paul identified and characterized false teachers and exposed how they sought gain by means of godliness or the things of the Lord. He also explained to Timothy the problems associated with pursuing the wealth of this world and not eternal things.

Now in verses 11 - 21 we have two charges or commands listed . One is given for Timothy and one is to be given by Timothy to those who were rich.

V. 11 - See Timothy is addressed as a man of God. The false teachers were men of the world, but Timothy was called of God to preach and present a testimony that would glorify the Lord.

In contrast to the false teachers Timothy was to flee or separate himself from what characterized them. This included:

- pride and conceit (4) impurity (15)
- discontented spirit (6-8)
- foolish and harmful lusts (9)
- love of money (10)

Then positively speaking Timothy was given three things to do which would insure success in the ministry.

First he was to follow after the elements of Christian character. These included:

- righteousness - which speaks of integrity in dealing with others.

- godliness - speaks of pious practical conduct that comes out of one's integrity.

faith or faithfulness - speaks of one's dependability.

love - speaks of personal sacrifice for the sake of others.

patience - speaks of endurance under trial. It is not a complacency that waits but a courage that continues on in tough times.

meekness - means gentleness and speaks of a humble disposition.

V. 12 - Secondly, to insure success Timothy was exhorted to fight the good fight... The word "fight" is not a battlefield term referring to combat but it is an athletic term meaning to contend. The good fight is the Christian faith and the race connected with it. "Keep on agonizing" as an athlete would strain in pursuit of the prize. The reference is to one's own struggle and not against others.

Lay hold on... this doesn't mean to strive for salvation but to count upon his conversion experience and profession of Christ which is to be demonstrated on a day to day basis.

V. 13 - Thirdly, to insure Timothy's success in the ministry He was to be faithful concerning the truth associated with the Christian faith. His fight is to defend the faith or body of truth deposited with the church.

V. 13-16 Paul refers to several things as encouragements for Timothy as he would defend the truth of the Christian faith.

First of all, he calls upon two witnesses. God who maketh all things alive would encourage Timothy as he might fear being killed.

Jesus Christ who witnessed a good confession before Pilate would be an encouragement to defend the faith.

Paul stated when Christ appears He will reveal His sovereign position above all earthly rulers.

When Christ appears His incomparable person and power will also be manifested.

These facts were to encourage Timothy not to be fearful or unfaithful with the truth.

V. 17-19 Timothy is exhorted to charge those who were rich.

He was to tell them not to be high-minded or haughty. This is a tendency among rich folks. They surmise they are better than others and look down on those who are poor.

Notice in the O.T. a sign of God's blessings was wealth, but in the N.T. a sign of God's blessing is being afflicted for Christ's sake. This is a sure sign of eternal rewards. "Blessed are ye...

Timothy was to exhort those who were rich to trust in God and not in their riches. People who have wealth usually trust in their wealth and this is a form of idolatry.

V. 18 - Timothy was to tell those who were rich to use their wealth to help others and to be rich in good works.

It is interesting how God sent Elijah to a poor widow to sustain him and not to a rich person.

The Bible says that Lazarus was laid at the rich man's gate and he wouldn't even give him the crumbs from the table.

People with money are not usually willing to share it because it becomes their god and they worship it too much to part with it.

V. 19 - Timothy was to tell those who were rich to use their wealth to be a blessing to others which would involve laying up for eternity. And that they might lay hold on life that is real.

This is suggesting that these people were unsaved and needed to have eternal life. They needed rather to see that the essence of life is to be a blessing to others. And when we live in this fashion we will be laying up for eternity.

V. 20,21 - Paul charges Timothy to keep what had been committed to him. This no doubt refers to the doctrines of the Christian faith.

Timothy was to avoid profane or secular reasonings and oppositions of knowledge that was false.

An example of this would be any of the cults falsely carrying the name of the Christian faith but which is contrary to the truth. Christian Science for one is not Christian and it is not science.

V. 21 - Paul mentions the fact that some had failed to avoid false teachers and had erred from the faith as a result

In summary this portion has to do with two things -
laying up for eternity and standing for the truth.

Challenge: Are you being a good steward with the truth?

Some people ...

- I. ARE IGNORANT OF THE TRUTH
- II. HAVE DEPARTED FROM THE TRUTH
- III. HAVE COMPROMISED THE TRUTH