

## Study 8- 1 Timothy

Read 1 Timothy 6: 11-16, 20-21

Paul now, gives a warning to Timothy, because Christian leaders can be led astray by false values and a desire for material gain. Demas forsook Paul because he loved the world, Judas sold Christ for thirty pieces of silver. Note that Paul called this youthful pastor a “man of God.” What an encouragement! Note the following three exhortations: flee, follow, and fight. Flee these things: pride, covetousness, false teachings. Sometimes the finest thing the Christian soldier can do is run. In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul commands him to “Flee youthful lusts.” This is what Joseph did when Potiphar’s wife tempted him. But it is not enough to flee. We must also follow, and we must also fight. Paul points to the example of Christ when He made His courageous witness before Pilate. “We serve the King of kings!” writes Paul. “Be faithful until He comes. When He comes, He will honor you for your good work.”

In vs. 20 we see the word “knowledge” mentioned but to Paul it was a false knowledge. He was no doubt referring to the Gnostics who claimed to have “full knowledge” about the universe, not too different from some of our philosophers today. These false teachers at Ephesus were disturbing young Timothy with their high-sounding theories and their questions about the Word of God; so Paul warned him not to get involved with this “profane and vain babbling”! The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

What is Timothy’s responsibility? To “guard the deposit” that God committed to him through Paul. God had given the Gospel message, the deposit of truth, to Paul who had in turn committed it to Timothy. Timothy was to guard it and pass it on to others (2 Timothy 2:2). This is the task of the church today; may we be faithful to guard the deposit and pass it on to others!

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-12

1. Of all the titles Paul could have chosen to refer to his young friend, why do you suppose he picked “man of God”? How would this be a special encouragement to Timothy?
2. What does Paul say Timothy should pursue in 6:11?
3. For the second time in this letter Paul tells Timothy to “fight the good fight” of faith. Why is it especially appropriate for Paul to use this image to talk with Timothy about the Christian walk?
4. When you think of the Christian life as a “fight,” what comes to mind? What weapons do we have to fight with? What are we fighting for?

5. How can Timothy or any of us, “lay hold of eternal life”?

Read 1 Timothy 6:13-16

6. What great event is foretold in 6:14? How does Paul use this event to motivate Timothy to godliness?

7. Paul describes seven characteristics of God in 6:15-16. List them and discuss the importance of each.

8. The idea of a positive “confession” is a common and important biblical theme (6:13-14). Note these following verses: 2 Chron. 6:24-26, John 1:20, 12:42, Rom. 10:9-10, 14:11, Phil. 2:11, Heb. 3:1, 13:15. What does the word confession mean to you?

9. What is accredited to God at the end of 6:16? Why do you think Paul would focus on these two points?

Read 1 Timothy 6:20-21

10. What does Paul instruct Timothy to do at the beginning of 6:20? How is this a good summary of everything that has been written in this letter?

11. What negative command does Paul give in 6:20? Do you believe such commands are necessary for today? Why or why not?

12. What is the significance of Paul’s last sentence, “Grace be with you”? Paul both began this letter and finished it with the word Grace. Why do you think this is?