

FLEE, FOLLOW, FIGHT, FOCUS

1Tim. 6:11-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Bible written for everyone, but occasionally some specific instructions given to those described as "men of God" Timothy was such; he was a preacher and they along with prophets of O.T., are frequently called "men of God"
- B. Anyone devoted to serving God can be called "a man of God" or "a woman of God." These seek to put principles of Bible into practice; "completely furnished unto every good work" 2Tim 3:16-17
- C. In our passage, instructions are given to Timothy and all others who would seek to please God that sum up the Christian experience. To them we now draw your attention:

DISCUSSION:

I. SOME THINGS TO FLEE (v.11) "Flee these things"

- A. "Flee" here means "to be a fugitive, to run away from"; it is the opposite of "attracted to, embrace, or pursue"
- B. What are "these things" Paul has in mind? He has just been talking about:
 1. Teachers of a "different doctrine" (who will not listen) (6:3-5).
 2. Desiring to be rich; love of money (6:9,10)
 3. There are other passages which teach us to "flee" youthful lusts 2Tim 2:22; Fornication 1Cor 6:18; Matt 5:27-28; Idolatry 1Cor 10:14; (Isa 44:15-17)
 4. Sometimes, the most courageous thing you can do is run from sin! Remember Joseph Gen 39:7-12

II. SOME THINGS TO FOLLOW (v.11)

- A. "Follow" here means "to pursue diligently; to earnestly endeavor to acquire." It's not just pretending; but "getting serious" about living the Christian life
- B. Paul instructs Timothy (and all **OF** God) to follow after:
 1. Righteousness - Christian concerned with right thing to do; regarding God and fellowmen 1Jhn 3:7
 2. Godliness = God at center of thoughts and actions.
 - a. It's how we want to live our lives (1Tim 2:1-3).
 - b. How godly women dress & live (1Tim 2:9-10).
 - c. Something exercise ourselves in (1Tim 4:7-8).
 - d. With contentment, it is great gain (1Tim 6:6).
 3. Faith - Heb 11:6
 - a. Faith that works through love Gal 5:6
 - b. Faith that holds on through thick and thin
 4. Love - For God, Christ, Truth, Fellow Christian, and the Lost 1Cor 13:1-8a

5. Patience - If you don't diligently pursue persistence and steadfastness, it will escape you. There can be no quitting when we begin the Christian Race Heb 12:1; Lk 9:62
6. Meekness ("gentleness") - Jesus was meek ("not quick to retaliate in face of provocation") and gentle. What a noble trait for us to pursue. Some of us might have to run harder to catch this one!

III. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF THE FAITH (6:12)

- A. Along with qualities of "non-violence" we must fight
- B. "Fight" like an athletic contest: Paul fought not as one beating the air 1Cor 9:26
- C. Life and death struggle with Satan Eph 6:10-17; use spiritual weapons in spiritual warfare 2Cor 10:3-5
- D. Fight to uphold, defend, and proclaim the faith Jude 3
 1. Let us contend earnestly for the faith with love for the Lord and the souls of men and women
 2. There are some kinds of fighting that are wrong 1Tim 6:4,5; 1:3-7; 2Tim 2:23; Titus 3:9-11
 - a. Bible class teachers should not ask questions which cannot be answered
 - b. Always asking or dealing with questions which fall in realm of opinion causes contention
 - c. Need edifying, not discouragement

IV. FOCUS (6:12 - "Lay hold on the life eternal, whereunto you were called") reward for fighting good fight of faith, fleeing worldliness, and following godliness

- A. It is easy to forget what being a Christian is all about. It's about spending eternity with God and His people
 1. It's why we make the "good confession" (6:12).
 2. It's why we are baptized into Christ Rom 6:3,4
 3. It's why we strive to be faithful to the end Rev. 2:10
 4. It's why we keep Lord's word til He comes (6:14).
- B. Jesus made confession before Pilate Jhn 18:33-37
 1. Jesus object of our confession Rom 10:9; Heb 3:1
 2. Can't literally "see" but with the eye of faith we keep him directly in our line of vision Heb 12:2; He is to be revered and respected Rev 19:15-16
- C. Keep selves focused on goal Phil 3:14 "lay hold" on heaven, don't turn loose for anything or anybody

CONCLUSION:

- A. All of these things (Flee, Follow, Fight, Focus) point to the seriousness of our life in Christ
- B. Flee things of world - follow after righteousness - fight good fight of faith - set your goal on going to heaven

