

1 Timothy 6:11-21

v11 Man of God or as NLT translates it - But you belong to God, so... flee all the above: love of money, arguing over words, envy, strife, malicious talk and evil suspicions - Instead, run after, or pursue, righteousness – being in a right standing with God at all times, godliness – or a Christ like walk, faith – belief in the unseen, love – the command of Christ to us, endurance – finish strong hold fast and don't slack off, gentleness – an aspect of Christ likeness so many would pass over on their way to making a name for themselves. (Other things Paul tells Timothy to flee from in 2Tim 2:22

V12 Also in 1:18 and 2Tim 4:7 or as Jude says 'contend for the faith'. It is a battle, so we are to stay on guard and keep at it. It is a cosmic battle affecting eternal destinies. No wonder Paul uses the illustration of a soldier for Christian life. Take hold of eternal life – cling to (hold unswervingly, Hebrews). As we confess who Christ is to us before others we are called to Life eternal.

V13 Paul uses Jesus example and testimony before Pilate. Jesus did not shrink back but spoke the truth which meant physical death, but that was just the door to the great victory. The early church had a difficult time deciding what to do with those who did not confess Christ when captured, but later wanted to be included in the fellowship.

V14 Imagine saying to a son, "If you are asked to deny Jesus, I want to see you in heaven with not a spot of blame." Paul wanted to see Timothy's eternal well being more than his physical. 4:16 Paul thought Timothy would not die before the Lord returned. We should expect his return at any moment for at any moment He may return for us. Death is one breath away. 1Chron 28:9.

V15 Yet Paul knew that time was in God's hands. Here Paul calls God the Father the same titles as the Son has received, Rev 19:16 They are one.

V16 This is a doxology starting mid verse 15. 1:17 God is a spirit and therefore cannot be seen. Ps 104:2 We see God in Christ Jesus. Honor is his because He alone deserves it. Might is His to enforce His loving decrees, that righteousness will never be defeated.

V17 God is the provider! Consider the last Emperor of China. He went from being one of the wealthiest and powerful men alive to a common laborer. Notice that God richly provides – not miserly, for our enjoyment. So much for aestheticism.

V 18,19 Still speaking to the wealthy, which we all are compared to 90% of the world, do good, be rich in good deeds, generous and willing to share. We should ask ourselves if we have a hold of the life that is truly life. Is our treasure here or in heaven? That determines where your heart is. Matt 6:19-21

V20,21 Just as the rich should use the physical for God, Tim is exhorted to use the gifts he has been given, to invest them in eternity. I see a quick turn here that catches Tim off guard. He relates to the wealthy using what they have entrusted to them and then suddenly it is a parallel for the gifts entrusted to himself. I think this is the main point of Paul's letters to him. 2Tim 1:14
Don't get in those arguments with men who are off base. They have no understanding so how can you help them? They always claim some secret insight that others cannot see. They have shipwrecked their faith – 1:19,20. God wants all to see the wonder of who He is. That is real knowledge and it is for everyone not some special elite. Whosoever will, let him come.