

1. (6:11-12) Being Ready to Fight for the Faith

Paul picks up from the previous thought regarding the misuse of wealth by the rich with the admonition to Timothy to “run!” Paul tells Timothy to get as far and as fast as possible from the elements that bind the greedy to destruction like shackles on a prisoner. Instead, Timothy, and all who believe, are to pursue righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, patience, and meekness. The pursuit is to engage in the “good fight of faith.” The fight is rejecting that which is offered by the world and holding on to the promises of God. But this pursuit is not just for individuals it is for the whole community seeking to change the world for the Messiah Jesus. It involves promoting the ideas of the kingdom of God in opposition to the concepts inherited from the kingdom of darkness. To preach, to teach, to help others, to heal the broken, these are the attacks the believer against the powers of darkness in the war for God’s reign.

2. (6:13-16) A Charge to Keep before the Glorious God: Paul moves then argues the is commanding Timothy to keep the commandment of God, the Word of God, the prophecies he had received about his calling, without anyone being able to cast aspersion on his ministry. Paul takes two major digressions, first, to speak of the power of God and the historical testimony of Jesus Christ as persecuted, victorious witness (14-15). The second is to describe the exalted state of Christ (16).

3. (6:17-19) Commands for the Wealthy

Paul, then, goes back to the topic of the wealthy. He commands Timothy to command them to share their wealth and not be greedy. They should not “trust in uncertain riches.” That is, anytime we place our trust in our paycheck, we have placed our trust in something that is uncertain. Wealthy people do not have to have such misplaced trust. But such becomes easy when you have so much money. People with such about reasons may thing they have become to big to fail. One of the biggest indicators of a coming failure is a long track record of previous victories. They have the tendency to breed overconfidence. This reality is obvious when it comes to have a lot of money. Having many resources can cause us to think we do not need God. But all people, including the wealthy, need eternal life. Money cannot buy that, only the blood of Christ qualifies us for it.

4. (6:20-21) Final Instructions: Paul closes the letter as a good mentor would. He tells Timothy to guard the traditions he has handed to him. He is to protect or “keep,” a word used within the Jewish system to suggest proper utilization of divine directives, the commandments of God. Timothy is also to stay away from empty talk and false knowledge. For us today, Paul would essentially tell Timothy not to get caught up in speculative nonsense that has nothing to do with the kingdom of God. Things that do not matter for salvation. Or, this may also include topics that try to stretch and contort the Scripture to fit within a human paradigm, like that which we have seen from prosperity preachers or those who argue that Jesus is not the only way for salvation. New thought leaders offer all sorts of ways for people to gain a sense of fulfillment without yielding to the power of the living God.

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