

I Timothy 6:11-21

Commentary: Get In The Fight 6:11-15

Paul continued the emphasis he began in the previous section (v3-10), appealing to Timothy to pursue spiritual, rather than physical, goals in his life. Paul calls Timothy a “man of God”, a term used only twice in the New Testament (v11 & 2 Tim 3:17) but used over 70 times in the Old Testament; often referring to the prophets which represented God to His people. As a “man of God” Timothy was called to faithfully represent God to His children (the Church) by living a godly example to; flee (ungodliness), pursue (godliness) and fight (opposition), in order that he may lay hold of the fullness of eternal life (v11-12). This three fold appeal (flee, follow and fight) given to Timothy applies equally to believers today.

Comprehension Questions:

Carefully read through I Timothy 6:11-21 and then attempt to answer the questions which follow.

Paul exhorts Timothy not only to reject the false teachings in the church (6:3-5) but also to flee from the false belief that wealth brings contentment (6:6-10).

1) What qualities does Paul state Timothy should instead pursue (v11)?

2) What is necessary for Timothy to do in order to “fight the good fight of faith”? (v12)?

In v11, 12 and 14 Paul uses the **active verbs**: “pursue” (v11), “fight” (v12), “lay hold on” and “keep”.

3) Who is responsible for doing these actions? God or Timothy?

Paul instructs Timothy in v14 to “keep this commandment” “until the Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing”. The “appearing” Paul is referring to in this passage is an event that he has previously written about to the Corinthian (15:51-54) and Thessalonian (I Thess 4:13-18) churches, known as the rapture of the Church.

Notice that Paul instructs Timothy to “keep this commandment” until the rapture, rather than, his own death.

4) How close did Paul consider the rapture of the Church to be?

5) Knowing the imminency of the rapture, how should believers strive to live?
Hint: v11-13.

The titles Paul bestows on God (v15-16) affirm God's sovereignty.

6) What characteristics of God does Paul emphasise in this passage.

Commentary: Instruction to the rich 6:17-21

In this final section in his letter to Timothy, Paul returned to that subject of money (refer v9-10). There is evidence to suggest that a sizeable amount of the members within the Ephesian church were financially well off (refer 2:9, 5:13 & 6:1-2). These members were reminded of the correct attitude and responsibility they had as believers toward the things God had blessed them with. Paul spoke of riches greater than temporary, earthly wealth, that had eternal value.

7) What is Paul's concern with this financially well off group within the church (v17)?

8) What is expected of believers that God has richly blessed (v17-18)?

9) What riches are worth far more to the believer (v18)?

10) Where are these riches stored (v19)?

Paul concludes with a warning against those who claim special "knowledge" (v20) about spiritual things.

11) What was the dangers of entertaining this knowledge (v21)?