

# AN ETERNAL AND REWARDING LIFE

1 Timothy 6:11-21

I just wrapped up my last rec baseball game of the season this week. In our final team meeting I tried to encourage the players and remind them of some of the most important truths about baseball that we had focused on all year. As we read the final verses of Paul's letter to Timothy, we see a similar thing taking place. Paul was encouraging Timothy and reminding him of some of the most important truths for Timothy to make the foundation of his life, both as a man of God, and a shepherd of God's church. Paul reminds Timothy, and would teach us, that

*The eternal and rewarding way to live is not up to our imagination and desires, but is instituted and directed by God.*

## **THE LIFE TO PURSUE: 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-16**

In this section there are four imperatives/commands given to Timothy. These four summarize most of the letter, as well as give direction to what type of life the "man of God" should live. Let's look at each of them.

**1. Flee these things.** These "things" are a reference to the negative things going on in the church of Ephesus, that have been seen in this letter. The gossip, the allegorizing of God's word, the greed and materialism, the false doctrine etc. Timothy needs to simply flee them, giving them no safe harbor in his life.

**2. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness.** These are the qualities that one should eagerly chase after and seek to obtain.

**3. Fight the good fight of the faith.** As discussed before, "the faith" is the body of doctrine which Paul refers to through this letter, and Timothy needs to be ready to fight for it. To protect the proper teaching of God's word will be difficult and distasteful, but it is critically important to the health and spiritual growth of the church.

**4. Take hold of eternal life.** The phrase "eternal life" is a very loaded term in our world, but it seems clear that Paul is referring to a quality of life that is available to Timothy, rather than something that awaits him after death.

What a powerful set of verses and imperatives! Just imagine what our lives, homes and churches would look like if we embraced these and made them our centerpoint and main pursuits! There is far more packed into these verses than we can cover today, so please take some time to meditate and discuss these this week.

**THE LIFE TO PROMOTE: 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19**

In this last section Paul again turns his attention to the rich and wealth within the church. He instructs Timothy to remind them of the reality of earthly riches, echoing Jesus' words from Matthew 6:19-21. Earthly riches aren't good or bad (though they do come with unique and dangerous temptations), but the goal of believers in regards to their finances, is to be generous and ready to share, seeking to lay up the treasure and a good foundation for the future. Ephesus (much like the U.S.) was a very wealthy and successful place, and the temptation to pursue wealth had permeated society. For those of us who have more wealth than we need to cover our basic needs, we should take this to heart. God would have us use our finances to love Him, love one another, and make disciples. When we use our finances to these ends, we are embracing the eternal and true life. Once again we see so clearly that our actions not only impact us in the present, but have repercussions for the future. The eternal and rewarding life is available to us now if we are willing to heed God's directions.

**FINAL WARNING: 1 TIMOTHY 6:20**

Finally, Timothy is exhorted to protect the ministry and message that has been given to him, and to steer clear of "irreverent babble" and "contradictions". These things would lead him away from the right and proper truth as he had been taught. In a pagan, materialistic world, the truth of God's word will come under attack, as will the people of God, both from the evil tide from without, and evil from within. Those brothers and sisters who would live this eternal and rewarding life, will only find it through following the directions that God has provided.

***GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS***

- ***Baptism Class, Sunday, June 4th, 10:00 AM, Modular.***
- ***Women's Ministry "Mom's Panel", June 2nd, 6:00PM***  
Free! Sign up on the patio and bring a salad to share. Childcare Provided
- ***Men's Breakfast, Saturday, June 10th, 7:30 AM***  
\$10, signup on the patio.
- ***VOM Needs for May: 1 Gallon zip seal bags, Medical tape***