Date: October 18, 2026
Title: Appropriate Conduct for the Household of God
Passage: 1 Timothy 6:11-21
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Key Passage:
1 Timothy 6:11-12
But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. Summary:
I. Holy Calling to Flee (v.11a)
II. Holy Calling to Pursue (v.11b)
III. Holy Calling to Fight (v.12)
Key Truths:

- The Christian life is in the context of a battle as well as a race ("running the race"). It requires diligent effort and focus.
- In the midst of a broken world, we are to live godly lives fearing and obeying God.
- Flee those things that are contrary to God's Word.
- Pursue things of God. Each day, we are to take up our cross and deny ourselves daily.
- Fight the Christian life on three fronts: world, devil, and the flesh.
- The fight of faith is good, which means that which is noble and honorable and excellent in its nature. This is a fight worth fighting with all that you have.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Why is the fight of faith described as good? How so?
- Would these terms (flee, pursue, fight) describe your relationship with God? Why or why not?
- What challenges do you have in fleeing from sin, pursuing holiness, or fighting the fight of faith?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?

- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

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Context of Passage

Paul is writing to Timothy with exhortations to be on guard against false teachers.

Passage:

1 Timothy 6:11-21

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.

Grace be with you.

EXPOSITION

Introduction

1 Timothy 3:15

if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

- Paul was jealous for the glory of God.
- Likewise, if we love God, we will love what Christ loves.
    - What does Christ love? His church. He gave His life for the church.

        - Through any challenges and warts and difficulties, we are to love the church.
- God dwells among His people
- God has purchased the church (see Acts 20)
    - God has only purchased one thing, which is the church.

Acts 20:28
Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

1 Peter 2:4-5
As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- How do we now behave as the people of God? As the household of God?

Overview:
Key commands in the passage:

- Flee
- Pursue
- Fight

Note: these are active verses ("continuing to flee…continuing to pursue…continuing to fight")

- The Christian life is in the context of a battle as well as a race ("running the race")

Luke 9:23
And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
Hebrews 12:1
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

1 Timothy 4:7
Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;

I. HOLY CALLING TO FLEE (v.11a)
1 Timothy 6:11a
But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.

Flee

- meaning = seek safety out of flight
- What to flee from?
    - False truths
        - Ex: seeking godliness would result in great gain.
    - Flee those things that are contrary to God's Word.

Other references to fleeing:
1 Corinthians 6:18
Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

- Flee sexual immorality

1 Corinthians 10:14
Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

- Flee idolatry
- The human heart is an idol factory
- Idol: Whatever holds our time and affections and devotions.

2 Timothy 2:22
So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

- Flee youthful passions.
- We can be tempted with many things that draw us away from God.

Proverbs 1:10

My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

- We are not to follow everyone around us.

1 Peter 2:11
Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

- We are in a real battle.

See story of Joseph

- Illustration of fleeing: dealing with Potiphar's wife.

Genesis 39:11-12
But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.
Romans 12:9
Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

II. HOLY CALLING TO PURSUE (v.11b)
1 Timothy 6:11b
Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.
Pursue
Acts 22:4 (Greek word = negative connotation)
I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,

- Pursue = to run swiftly after = persecute

Luke 19:10 (Greek word = positive example)
For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

- Pursue = to seek after eagerly, to earnestly endeavor to acquire
- "seek and to save" = Jesus' pursuit is active for lost souls.

What are we to pursue?
righteousness

- Meaning = upright conduct.
- Having a heart set right on things of God.

Titus 2:11
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

- In the midst of a broken world, we are to live godly lives fearing and obeying God.

godliness,

- Meaning = Devotion that is devoted to God and in one's relationship with God. Be a godly person. The fear of God that wants to please Him.

Ephesians 5:10
and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

- We were astray but now we are within His love and want to please God.

faith,

- Meaning = a life of faith and obedience in doing the will of God.
    - Faith is long obedience in the same direction.
    - Living life in submission to God and growing in faith.
- We are saved by faith in Christ alone in His all-sufficient work. But we also live by faith.
- See Jesus temptation (quoting Deuteronomy):

Matthew 4:4
But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
Proverbs 3:5-6
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

love

- Love: Summation of the greatest commandments.

Matthew 22:36-40
“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

- We are to love God and love fellow believers.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10
Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,

- We are to actively grow in our love for God and for others. ("more and more")

steadfastness

- Meaning = to remain under
- When trials and difficulties come, you bear under the difficulties and remain steadfast and obedient to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58
Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

gentleness
Matthew 11:28-29
Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- Jesus describes Himself as gentle.
    - Follow Jesus' example.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- Gentleness is one of the outcomes of a life in Christ.

What are we to do?

- Pursue these things
    - Not drifting to them as they are not our default thoughts and affections.
- Each day, we are to take up our cross and deny ourselves.

Luke 9:23
And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

III. HOLY CALLING TO FIGHT (v.12)
1 Timothy 6:12
Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
A. We are to fight the good fight
Fight the good fight of the faith.

- Fight the Christian life on three fronts:

1. The World
Romans 12:2
Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- The world is wanting to form you in its mold.
    - But we are to fight that conformity.

2. The Devil
1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- there is a real adversary.

3. The Flesh
Romans 13:14
But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

B. We are to contend for the Gospel.
Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- Our focus is on God and His kingdom purposes and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Application:
Would these terms (flee, pursue, fight) describe your life this week?
Are you seeking these things in your life as a Christian?
What challenges do you have in fleeing from sin, pursuing holiness, and fighting the fight of faith?

Good fight

- This is a good fight.
- Good = that which is noble and honorable and excellent in its nature.
- Meaning = this is a fight worth fighting with all that you have.

1 John 2:17
And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- The church is to be militant (battle wages on earth) and triumphant (war has been already won).

Psalm 16:11
You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Closing Thoughts

1 Timothy 4:12

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:15

Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

- Question: Do people see progress in you? Do people see more and more of Christ in you?
    - The beauty of the church is in its people as they become more like Christ.