

“The Man of God – His Motivation”
1 Timothy 6:13-16
(Preached at Trinity, November 7, 2021)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Paul's focus in this chapter has been upon the false teachers who were plaguing the Church of Ephesus. This has been the underlying theme of the entire epistle.
1 Timothy 6:3-5 NAU - "If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, ⁴ he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain."
2. Beginning with **Verse 11** Paul gives the great contrast between the character of the false teacher and Timothy's character.
Paul refers to Timothy as "you man of God." It signifies ownership. The man of God is God's personal possession, chosen of God, called of God, set apart by God. Timothy was God's man. It has an official tone.
But it is also a term that can be applied to every Christian – called of God, set apart by God, God's own possession.
3. In **Verses 11-12** Paul gives several characteristics of the man of God.
 - A Man of God is known by what he flees from
Verse 11 - "But flee from these things, you man of God"
The "man of God" is sharply contrasted with the false teachers.
He flees from the lusts that false teachers long for.
 - Man of God is known by what he pursues –
1 Timothy 6:11 NAU - "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness."
The Christian runs towards the virtues that define the Christian life.
 - A Man of God is known by what he fights for – "Fight the good fight of faith"
The Christian life is a battle.
The man of God contends for the faith. He fights the good fight of faith. He presses on in the faith. It's a good fight and he wages it valiantly.
 - A Man of God is known by what he takes hold of
1 Timothy 6:12 NAU - "take hold of the eternal life to which you were called"
He pursues eternal life with all his heart. Eternal life is a present reality.
The man of God maintains an eternal perspective
Philippians 3:20 NAU - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"

4. Now I want us to see what motivates the Man of God
- A. Paul places two doxologies in this epistle – one at the beginning, one at the end
1 Timothy 1:17 NAU - "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."
1 Timothy 6:15-16 NAU - "He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen."
- B. This second doxology is given in the context of Paul's charge to Timothy to remain steadfast in his defense of the truth.
1 Timothy 6:13-15 NAU - "I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which He will bring about at the proper time"
- C. This is followed by the doxology. Paul's point is that Jesus Christ is our motivation to remain steadfast until He returns.
- (1) Another way of putting it is we do all things for His glory. The glory of Christ is the fulness of His character.
 - (2) This is particularly true as we face the battles of being a soldier for Christ. We keep our eye upon our Savior, our Lord and Master, our King.
 - a. Timothy was in a raging battle with false teachers
 - b. He was being looked down upon because of his age.
1 Timothy 4:12 NAU - "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."
 - c. Paul reminds Timothy in his second epistle that rather than fear, God has given us power.
2 Timothy 1:7 NAU - "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline."
 - d. Paul is making it abundantly clear – our source of strength rests entirely on God. We can press on in the worst of trials. Confidence in Christ and understanding His character serves as our highest motivation for service – we do all things for His glory.
5. To encourage Timothy and to motivate him to press on Paul gives an extraordinary presentation of Christ's Character. It gives us a glimpse of His glory. In verses 13-16 Paul displays five attributes of our Lord Jesus Christ: His invincibility, His blessedness, His sovereignty and dominion, His immortality, and His holiness.

I. The invincibility of Christ

1 Timothy 6:14 NAU - "that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ"

A. Paul's point is the great King we serve is coming back. It is an absolute. Jesus Christ is infallible. Nothing will prevent Him from accomplishing His purpose.
Acts 1:11 NAU - "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

1. Nothing can prevent His coming.

1 Timothy 6:15 NAU - "which He will bring about at the proper time"

2. The man of God knows that history is winding down to a precise predetermined end – our Lord is invincible and His purpose invincible
Verse 15 – “at the proper time” – At the right time, in His time.

3. The man of God keeps one eye towards the sky in confident expectation. No matter what condition this life may bring the man of God knows it will soon be over, it will soon be swept into eternity.

B. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming back unexpectedly

Luke 12:40 NAU - "be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."

1. Since today might be the day of Christ's return, the man of God remains vigilant. He presses on. We are about to be called upon to give account – it could be today.

2. Knowing the day is near, what effect should it have upon how we live?

2 Peter 3:10-12 NAU - "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!"

II. The blessedness of Christ

1 Timothy 6:15 NAU - "He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed"

Paul used the same title in Chapter 1

1 Timothy 1:11 NAU - "according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted."

A. Christ's blessedness points to His absolute satisfaction in His Divine perfections –

1. There was a time in eternity when there was only God – no angels to sing forth His praises, no universe to declare His glory.

He was alone – self-satisfied, self-contained, self-sufficient

2. God works all things because it is pleasing to Himself

Ephesians 1:9 – “Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:”

3. The man of God is humbled by this knowledge –
He is worthy of praise. He is the full expression of Divine perfection.
- B. The man of God realizes he is blessed because of his union with the blessed God
Psalm 2:12 NAU - "blessed are all who take refuge in Him!"
Psalm 34:8 NAU - "O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!"
Psalm 65:4 NAU - "How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts."
Psalm 40:4 NAU - "How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust"
Psalm 112:1 NAU - "How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments."
Jeremiah 17:7 NAU - "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD."
1. We have entered into His blessedness
 2. All of our contentment is in Him. No matter what trial or external circumstance the man of God himself, he at peace. It is a peace based on the knowledge that our blessed God is in control
Psalm 4:7-5:1 NAU - "You have put gladness in my heart, More than when their grain and new wine abound. ⁸ In peace I will both lie down and sleep, For You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety. "
 3. The man of God must strive to have the contentment of God
Nothing outside of God has any effect upon His essential peace and contentment. Outward circumstances neither add to nor take away from our position in Christ.
- III. The Sovereignty of God
1 Timothy 6:15 NAU - "which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,"
The basic meaning of the word denotes power, absolute rule.
- A. The man of God serves God because He is the only God
Exodus 20:3 KJV - "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."
Deuteronomy 4:35 NAU - "To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him."
Deuteronomy 6:4 NAU - "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!"
1. His power is not derived from anything outside Himself.
 2. God has no rivals – even Satan is under His dominion.
 3. Christ sits sovereignly upon His throne – hated by the world.
His rejection by man in no way lessens His power and dominion.
When He returns in power and authority every knee will bow before Him.
- B. The man of God serves Christ because He is King. He is the absolute ruler.
- 1 Many today presume God's purposes can be frustrated – this is impossible
God works all things after His good pleasure
Ephesians 1:5 NAU - "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,"

2. God is never surprised, never caught off guard, never frustrated. His purposes will stand.
- C. This knowledge brings the man of God total confidence, complete peace, great encouragement
1. Our success is not based upon our ability, wisdom, or talent.
 2. The man of God understands that his plans must be in subjection to our Sovereign King.
Thomas à Kempis – “Man proposes; God disposes”
Proverbs 16:9 NAU - "The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps."
 4. The man of God is comforted in his work knowing that God is in absolute control even in the most trying conditions.
Spurgeon – “There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God’s sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that Sovereignty hath ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them all.”¹
- IV. The immortality of God
- 1 Timothy 6:16 NAU** - "who alone possesses immortality"
It literally means “deathless.” It refers to unending existence, eternal life – applied to God it speaks of His eternity.
- Psalms 90:2 NAU** - "Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."
- A. Only God is inherently immortal
1. Upon the earth all men will taste death because we are mortal. Our bodies are frail and constantly decaying. God is forever unchanging.
 2. Angels and men will exist forever but our immortality derives from God
 3. Everything upon this earth is failing. God is the unfailing fountain of life.
- B. The man of God gains great comfort from God’s eternity
1. In a world in which nothing endures, God is.
Jesus Christ has existed in all eternity.
John 1:1-2 NAU - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God."
 2. In a world that seems filled with uncertainty God is certain. The Kingdom of our Lord is an everlasting Kingdom.
Psalms 145:13 NAU - "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion *endures* throughout all generations."
 3. Serving an everlasting King who rules an everlasting Kingdom helps keep things in proper perspective. He cannot be conquered. He cannot fail.
Jesus Christ is absolute—the Lord of lords and King of kings.

¹ C. H. Spurgeon, *Divine Sovereignty*, Sermon delivered May 4, 1856 at the New Park Street Chapel.

4. The man of God keeps his eye upon the throne—where Christ is seated.
Colossians 3:1 NAU - "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

He is on the throne – now and forever

V. The Holiness of God

1 Timothy 6:16 NAU - "who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen."

- A. This speaks of His transcendence, His otherness, His holiness.
 1. Paul stresses the solitariness of God. He is only, alone, unique.
He is the "only Sovereign"
He "alone possesses immortality "
 2. He is without equal, beyond compare.
Exodus 15:11 NAU - "Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?"
- B. Most church people today have and unholy, unhealthy familiarity with God.
 1. They consider worship a casual affair – like going to the beach.
One church website describes their worship:
"You're welcome to wear whatever you'd like. Some wear ties others wear tattoos and we like it that way."
It describes worship the way they like it. What does God like?
 2. The man of God serves God in reverential fear – Our God dwells in light unapproachable
 3. God is transcendent – totally beyond us
Martin Luther: God is Deus absconditus – "the hidden God"
Had God not revealed Himself man could have no knowledge of Him
 4. God told Moses
Exodus 33:20 NAU - "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"
- C. Those who have met this God gladly serve Him.
 1. When Isaiah saw the glory of God he exclaimed
Isaiah 6:5 NAU - "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."
 2. Having met God Isaiah could only respond in submission, prepared for service.
Isaiah 6:8 NAU - "Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"
 3. Those who have met God desire to be conformed to Him
1 Peter 1:15-17 NAU - "but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *upon earth*"

Conclusion:

1. Paul is encouraging Timothy as God's man to contemplate carefully the greatness of Christ and allow it to consume him.
2. Keep the commandment in the presence of infinite, divine majesty, the Lord of lords and King of kings.
3. What motivates you in life? What keeps you pressing on? What keeps you looking patiently for the return of Christ?