

## THE WHY?

Sunday morning Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**1 Cor 6:20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

**1 Pet 1:18-19** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, {the blood} of Christ.

## MAN OF GOD

**1 Tim 6:11** But flee from these things, **you man of God**; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance {and} gentleness.

**2 Tim 3:16-17** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

**2 Cor 5:18-21** Now all {these} things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin {to be} sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

## OUR LIFE OF FLEET

**FLEEING:** is from pheugo, from which our English word “fugitive” derives. That meaning is reflected in the term “fugitive,” which refers to a person who is continually on the run in order to escape capture. The faithful Christian is continually on the run, as it were, from the sinful passions that started when we were young.

**1 Tim 6:6-10** But godliness {actually} is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. 7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

Timothy here is being sharply contrasted with the false teachers. They are money’s men, he is God’s man; they are sin’s men, he is righteousness’s man; they are the world’s men, he is heaven’s man. A man of God realizes there are certain things to be avoided at all cost. That is the cardinal sin of false teachers, who pervert the truth for personal gain. From Balaam, who sold himself to the highest bidder, through the greedy false prophets of Israel, to Judas and Demas in the New Testament, the hallmark of false teachers is greed.

**1 Cor 6:18-20** Flee immorality. Every {other} sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Flee immorality is the present imperative of the Greek indicates the idea is to flee continually and to keep fleeing until the danger is past. When we are in danger of such immorality, we should not argue or debate or

explain, and we certainly should not try to rationalize. We are not to consider it a spiritual challenge to be met but a spiritual trap to be escaped. We should get away as fast as we can.

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

Before he goes into defining the specific evils of idolatry, he tells them to flee from idolatry. Even before they understand its full danger they should get away from it. If they had slipped back into idolatry or were strongly tempted to do so, they first should get far away from it, and then study Paul's argument. "First, get out of immediate danger. You won't be able to pay attention to or appreciate what I am saying as long as you are associated with the practice in any way."

**2 Tim 2:22** Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love {and} peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

The Greek verb here is in the present imperative of command, indicating that fleeing is not optional but is to be persistent. Paul commands Timothy not only to "flee from youthful lusts," but also to "pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace." If he stops, what is behind him (Sin) will catch him, and he will miss his goal of holiness.

## OUR LIFE OF PURSUIT

**PURSUE:** to follow after

**RIGHTEOUSNESS:** means to do what is right, in relation to both God and man. The righteousness Paul describes here is not Christ's righteousness imputed to us at salvation, but holiness of life. God's man is known for doing what is right. His is a lifestyle marked by obedience to God's commands.

**Dan 1:8** But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought {permission} from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

**Dan 6:3-5** Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. 4 Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or {evidence of} corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was {to be} found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find {it} against him with regard to the law of his God."

**GODLINESS:** the internal counterpart to righteousness is godliness. While righteousness looks to the outward behavior, godliness has to do with the attitudes and motives. Right behavior flows from right motives. Godliness refers to reverence for God flowing from a worshipping heart. It could be translated "Godlikeness."

**Matt 6:1-6** "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. 2 "When therefore you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 3 "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing 4 that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. 5 "And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

**Acts 4:32-37** And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one {of them} claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. 34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales, 35 and lay them at the apostles' feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need. 36 And Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means, Son of Encouragement), 37 and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

**FAITH:** is simply confident trust in God for everything. It involves loyalty to the Lord and unwavering confidence in His power, purpose, plan, provision, and promise. Faith is the atmosphere in which the man of God exists. He trusts God to keep and fulfill His Word.

**Dan 3:12-18** "There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, {namely} Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up." 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then these men were brought before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 "Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe, and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, {very well.} But if you will not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 17 "If it be {so,} our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 "But {even} if {He does} not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

**LOVE:** agape is the love of volition and choice. It is unrestricted and unrestrained, encompassing love for God, other believers, and non-Christians.

**Matt 22:39-40** "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

**Matt 5:43-48** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on {the} evil and {the} good, and sends rain on {the} righteous and {the} unrighteous. 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same? 47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more {than others} Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**PERSEVERANCE:** which means "to remain under." It does not describe a passive, fatalistic resignation, but a victorious, triumphant, unswerving loyalty to the Lord in the midst of trials. It is the perseverance of the martyr, who will lay down his life if necessary for the cause of Christ. Paul and most of the other apostles would exhibit that supreme measure of perseverance. Perseverance enables the man of God to stick with the task, no matter what the cost.

**James 1:2-4** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have {its} perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**2 Cor 1:8-10** For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came {to us} in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 who delivered us from so great a {peril of} death, and will deliver {us,} He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,

**Job 42:5** "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees Thee;

**GENTLENESS:** which means kindness or meekness, and appears only here in the New Testament. Although consumed with the greatest of causes, the man of God recognizes that in himself he makes no contribution to its success, and is marked by considerate humility.

**Gal 5:21-26** which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

**Eph 4:1-3** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Col 3:12-13** And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

## **OUR TRUE LOVE AND GRATITUDE IS EXPRESSED IN OBEDIENCE**

**John 14:15** "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

**Rom 12:1-2** I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, {which is} your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

**A VOW:** a solemn promise or pledge one makes to God dedicating oneself to an act, service or a way of life.

**"Believing that God's way is the best, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my church, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to a lifetime of purity. I will strive to set my eyes only upon that which is pure. I will strive to allow my mind to dwell only upon thoughts that are pure. I will strive only to speak words that are pure, and edifying to others. I will strive to keep my ears free from that which is not pure. I will strive to keep myself sexually abstinent from this day Feb 11th until the day I enter into the Lord's presence or biblical marriage relationship. If I shall sin in any of these areas I will confess my sin, repent of that sin, and daily commit myself to living a surrendered life controlled by the Holy Spirit of God to the glory of God's name. "**