

1 Timothy Chapter 6 B

Winston Churchill, in a speech given before the House of Commons in June of 1940:

“I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization. Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be freed and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands.”

“But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves, that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, This was their finest hour.”

- Compelling speeches have inspired armies to do exploits throughout the centuries. From Joan of Arc to Queen Elizabeth, George Washington to Douglass MacArthur soldiers have been inspired by the words of their leaders.

At the very end of Paul’s life, when he is about to be martyred he speaks to young Timothy in the same way that a seasoned military officer would speak to his troops:

2 Timothy 2: 3 **Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.** 4 **No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.**

- Consider the battle that Timothy was engaged in:
- The Apostle Paul sent Timothy into the city of Ephesus, that same city where the truth of the Gospel came under fire in the grand Theater where an angry mob shouted “*Great is Diana of the Ephesians!*”
- Years later the church had come under attack by corrupt leaders and false teachers.
- PAUL sent Timothy to confront the heretics and establish new leaders..
- In 1 Timothy chapter 1 Paul exhorted Timothy to wage the good warfare...

1 Timothy 1: 18 **This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,**

- The task that was before Timothy was monumental; and Timothy was no Winston Churchill. He was shy even timid, he had some physical frailties.
- But He was God’s chosen instrument.

1Co 1:27 **But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;**

Here in Chapter 6 Paul has finished all of the warnings aimed at the false teachers and their worldly appetites, he closes his exhortation to Timothy with six imperatives, six commands that are befitting a young soldier who is engaged in the struggles of spiritual battle.

Six Imperatives:

- Flee
- Pursue
- Fight
- Take Hold
- Charge
- Guard

1 Timothy 6: 11 **But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.**

In verse 11, Flee and Pursue literally line up back to back in the original text to provide strong and stirring contrast:

- Timothy as a Man of God, a good soldier of the faith must not be weighed down with the things of this world.
- Instead, He is commanded to FLEE (present imperative) run and keep running!
- The Greek word for flee is (FEUGE) the word from which we receive our word fugitive.
- What was Timothy instructed to RUN FROM? (*in the context*) He is to run from the pitfalls and temptations that ensnared the false teachers.

1 Timothy 6:9, **But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.**

VS 11 **BUT YOU man of God FLEE these things!**

- Like Joseph who FLED from Potipher's provocative wife Timothy is commanded to flee the harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.
- The same word is used in 2 Timothy.

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.**

You should note that Paul's instructions in BOTH 1 Timothy 6 and 2 Timothy 2 include NOT ONLY the command to FLEE certain things they ALSO include a command to PURSUE other things.

- To FLEE is a withdrawal from something; to PURSUE is to advance toward something else. BOTH words are in the present imperative verb tense expressing an action that involves continuous activity.
- Timothy is to continually flee from the worldliness and temptations that entangled the false teachers AND he is to continually PURSUE the godly transformation that is expressed in righteousness, godliness, faith, love and steadfastness.

1 Timothy 6: 11 **But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.**

Timothy you are to continually pursue these things:

- Righteousness - *In this context* the pursuit of righteousness is the pursuit of right behavior, (Living) doing that which is pleasing in the eyes of God.

- In this verse Paul is not speaking of the righteousness of Christ that is credited to believers by faith but rather the fruit of that righteousness that grows in the lives of the redeemed.
- Because all of us still drag around this sin laden body of flesh (Still sin in thought, word and deed)
- The righteousness of which Paul speaks involves an ongoing pursuit. Putting off the old and putting on the new man.

Along with that righteousness Timothy is called to pursue:

- Godliness: While righteousness speaks of the outward life Godliness speaks of the inner life. It is a god-likeness that comes from Holy Spirit who dwells inside of all believers.
- Faith: A continual looking unto God and not to the things that are seen as our ultimate reality. *Things that are seen are temporal; it is the unseen things that are eternal.* Faith – holding to God’s revealed truth when circumstances contradict.
- Love, (AGAPE) a love for God that frees one from the love of this world and enables us to serve one another with a right heart,
- Steadfastness, Endurance, perseverance; the ability to abide under a heavy weight of difficulties.
- Gentleness, meekness of temperament when one faces wrong.

We would do well to join Timothy in the pursuit of these Godly virtues.

- If you are a believer, you have the Spirit dwelling in you; I assure you that HE is laboring in you to produce these precious qualities.
- DON’T give up the pursuit because you fail.. trust that *He who began a good work in you will see it through until the day of Jesus Christ.*

Moving on we learn that the ongoing pursuit of Christian virtues involves a fight

The next two imperatives are found in the words: “Fight” and “Take Hold of”

- Both of these words, like the previous coupling are also in the verb tense expressing a continual, ongoing action.

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.*

- Fight is the verb (*AGONIZOMAI*) This word is used in both military and athletic contexts to describe the concentration, discipline, conviction and effort that is needed to WIN.
- The word describes the straining of every nerve to the utmost toward the goal. It is the Greek word from which we receive our English word agonize or agony.
- Here the straining, the continuous agony of labor is on behalf of “The Faith.”
- Agonize the good agony of the faith.
- In this context “The Faith” refers to the whole realm of Christian truth that is embodied for us in the Word of God.
- Timothy is to continually strain in an agonizing effort to deliver the whole truth of God’s unchanging Word. In the face of false teachers.

The command to “**Take hold of the eternal life**” Does not imply that Timothy was in need of salvation. Instead Paul admonished Timothy to “**GET A GRIP**” on the reality of eternal life.

When we have a firm grasp, a clear vision of the wonder and the glories of the life to come we can hold it forth to others who are in need of God’s saving grace.

The False teachers were preaching with personal gain, worldly success in mind, they were more interested in fleecing the sheep than feeding the sheep, their eyes were on THIS world rather than the world to come.

Paul Says Timothy **GET A GRIP** on the eternal life **to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses**

- Florence Chadwick, the first woman to swim the English Channel in both directions, stepped into the water off the Island of Catalina one foggy morning. She was attempting to swim to the California coast.
- After swimming for hours in the fog and cold she gave up not knowing that she was only one mile away from her destination. She said, “I’m not excusing myself, but if I could have seen the land I might have made it.”
- We need to **GET A GRIP** on eternal life. See the Lord Jesus High and lifted up, hear the voice of the angels (holy, holy, holy)

Let’s consider the next imperative. This one involves a **CHARGE**, a command that Timothy is to make to those who are **RICH** in this present life.

1 Timothy 6:17 **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. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 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.**

- Those who are rich in this present life face some unique temptations.
- The panel on “Shark Tank” described as “Self-Made Millionaires.” This description is given to individuals who started their lives with meager resources but through hard work and wise investing accrued great wealth.
- It seems natural for those who are rich to struggle with pride. Like Nebuchadnezzar they stand before their great empire and declare, “**Look at this great Babylon I have built!**”

Proverbs 11 **A rich man’s wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination. 12 Before destruction a man’s heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.**

- The false sense of security that comes from wealth keeps some people from seeing the reality of their needy condition. Their wealth can be like a high wall in their own imagination, but the judge of all men will one day pull down the wall.

Proverbs 11:28 **Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.**

- In the parable of the Sower, the different kinds of SOIL represent the condition of a men's heart as the seed of God's Word comes to bear upon it.
- The heart that never bears fruit is one that is consumed with the cares of this present world and the deceitfulness of riches:

Mark 4: 18 *And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

- As we move on to the last imperative let's remember where we began:

We began this morning by considering a speech delivered by Winston Churchill when his beloved England was threatened by the approaching Nazi Armies in WW2. Churchill was given a sacred charge to protect the homeland and his impassioned speech came from the conviction that he must guard that which was entrusted to him as the Prime Minister of England.

Paul's impassioned letter to Timothy ends with a reminder of his responsibility to guard the sacred deposit that was entrusted to him.

1 Timothy 6:20 *O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," 21 for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.*

- The wording "O Timothy" shows the great emotion that lies behind Paul's command.
- Paul passionately commands Timothy to GUARD, to protect the good deposit, that which has great value, that has been entrusted into his keeping.
- QUESTION? What was that good deposit?
 - In Verse 12 it is described as "The Faith"
 - In Verse 14 it is called, "The Commandment."
 - In the Parable of the Sower, it was "the Seed."

The Good Deposit is the Word of God, the full and complete revelation of Jesus Christ which was delivered by God himself to his holy Apostles and Prophets which is the sacred treasure given by God to his beloved church.

In 1 Thessalonians 2 Paul speaks of his own calling as: *"having been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel,"*

Paul describes his calling to the believers at Corinth in this way:

1 Corinthians 4:1, *"one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."*

The tragedy of the false teachers is that they SWERVED from the faith.

Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," 21 for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.

- This word "Swerved" is also found in 1 Timothy 1:6, so Paul begins and ends this epistle with a sincere concern that the church remain ON TARGET.
- Swerve - Miss the mark... The False teachers turned from the apostolic course,

- Romans 1 speaks of those who push away the truth of God and embrace a lie.

Romans 1: 25, **they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.**

- God holds all men accountable for the truth that he has revealed about himself through his creation and through the conscience.
- BUT we who are born of God, we have a greater revelation. God has graciously revealed himself to us through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- WE must GUARD the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our DAY.

In our Day:

- Bible Study has been replaced by Story telling
- Worship replaced with Christian entertainment.
- Fellowship replaced by facebook (the 2nd largest church in USA is an online church where the people meet together over their computers.
- The literal creation of Genesis has been rejected for Theistic evolution
- Social Justice has become more important than the Salvation of souls.

Some of our friends, maybe even members of our own family have SWERVED from the simple truth of the Gospel.

- This is not a time to be a timid Timothy, it is a time to remember the 6 imperatives:

6 imperatives:

- Flee - worldliness & materialism
- Pursue - righteousness & godliness
- Fight - the good fight of the faith
- Take Hold - of eternal life
- Charge - the rich
- Guard - the good deposit