

## INTRODUCTION

It seems that the people of the world can't think straight. Their minds take in information, even actual facts or truth, but when they have thought about it, they come to conclusions that don't make a bit of sense. As a result, they seem to depart from whatever really would be good for them, and go after whatever is bad for them. The world around us demonstrates that it doesn't know the right way to go.

If there is a way that would lead to peace, the world goes the way that leads to turmoil, conflict, and war.

If there is a way that would lead to prosperity, the world goes the way that leads to poverty.

If there is a way that would lead to health, the world goes the way that leads to disease and death.

If there is a way that would lead to heaven, the world goes the way that leads to hell.

By God's grace, we are no longer just living with the world. Yes, we still live on the same planet and in the same universe with the others of our human race. But the Holy Spirit has worked in us repentance unto life and true saving faith in Jesus Christ, who has died for us and risen again to life. As the disciples of Jesus Christ, we recognize we are strangers or pilgrims here, just passing through on our way to the city not made by hands. Our blind eyes have been opened, our foolish hearts have been made wise. We can think straight about things. We know that the Bible is the word of God, so we read it and listen to it. We agree with the words of Jesus Christ and the doctrine that accords with godliness.

The things that the world thinks good, we recognize as evil. We hear clearly the warnings our Lord gives us through His apostles, about the kind of people who teach false doctrine, and about how our congregations will be if we listen to them, and about the dangers to our souls that come to such people.

Hear now with me the charge the word of God gives to us, that urges us to shun the evil of this world, and look to the good ways of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

## BODY

- I. Man of God
  - A. As you heard in the OT reading, this title was used of the old prophets, such as Moses, Elijah, and Elisha
  - B. Primarily: by office
    - 1. apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor
  - C. Generally: all the people of God; that is, the disciples of Jesus Christ
  - D. By extension: sinners who want to be the people of God
    - 1. Moses the man of God led the people of God through the Red Sea, while Pharaoh and the Egyptians were drowned
  
- II. Flee and Pursue
  - A. Flee the things I have just mentioned; follow after or pursue the things I am about to mention
  - B. Other ways of saying this
    - 1. Run away from these things; run after these things
    - 2. These things over here, don't let them catch you; but these things over here, you catch them
  - C. The nobility of flight
    - 1. when it is one's duty to stand and fight, it is cowardly and dishonorable to flee
    - 2. in the Bible, the struggle against sin is often couched in terms of standing to fight;
      - a) "resist the devil, and he will flee"
      - b) put on the whole armor of God, that you may stand
    - 3. but also noble to flee
      - a) e.g. Joseph shrugged out of his coat and ran outside
      - b) e.g. Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."
  
- III. What Temptations We Are to Flee
  - A. The things that produce false teaching
    - 1. pride
    - 2. ignorance
    - 3. unhealthy interest in controversy, even to the point of warring over words
  - B. The things that come when men teach falsely
    - 1. envy
    - 2. strife
    - 3. railings
    - 4. evil surmisings
    - 5. perverse disputings
  - C. The lusts of men who equate gain with godliness
    - 1. the desire to be rich
    - 2. the love of money
  - D. 2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts...

#### IV. What Virtues or Graces We Are to Pursue

##### A. Righteousness G1343 *dikaiosune*

1. sin is lawlessness or transgression of the law
  - a) 1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness
2. righteousness is the opposite of sin
  - a) Romans 6:18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
  - b) 2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
3. righteousness is the keeping of God's law
4. two kinds
  - a) worked by Jesus Christ perfectly, and imputed to us through faith
  - b) worked by us imperfectly, but counted as acceptable to God through faith in Christ
5. the man of God need not pursue righteousness as imputed, the righteousness which is from God by faith; instead, he pursues righteousness as to how he lives, how he treats other people
6. to become one of the people of God, a sinner pursues imputed righteousness by believing in Jesus Christ, trusting himself to Him

##### B. Godliness G2150 *eusebeia*

1. a life devoted to God
2. true religion
3. the worship of God through Jesus Christ, according to the Bible

##### C. Faith G4102 *pistis*

1. Mark 11:22-24 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. (23) For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. (24) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.
2. the man of God seeks to exercise his faith in God, that it be purified and strengthened
3. the sinner looks to become one of the people of God by having faith in Jesus Christ

##### D. Love G26 *agape*

1. John 15:9-13 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. (11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (13) Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
2. love toward God: keeping His commandments
3. love toward each other: laying down your life for each other
4. the sinner contemplates the great love Jesus Christ has shown for sinners in laying down His life for us; the sinner loves Jesus Christ in return

- E. Patience ESV: steadfastness CSB: endurance G5281 *hupomone*
  - 1. Luke 8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.
  - 2. Poole: a quiet bearing of injuries
- F. Meekness NKJV, ESV, CSB gentleness G4236 *praotes* from G4235; see also G4239 *praus* and G4240 *prautes*
  - 1. in my judgment, it is better to keep the words “meek” and “meekness,” than to abandon them and use “gentle” and “gentleness”
  - 2. Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
  - 3. Psalm 37:1-11

#### V. How We Flee These Temptations

- A. Think of these things in the terms the Bible gives us
  - 1. the desire to be rich is a snare or trap
  - 2. the love of money is a root from which grows all evil, or all kinds of evil
- B. Think of their danger rather than their allure
  - 1. they cause us to drown
  - 2. they produce all kinds of evil
  - 3. they cause us to be run through

#### VI. How We Pursue These Virtues or Graces

- A. Understand they are things the believer has, but needs more of
- B. Understand they are the things the unbeliever has none of that is acceptable to God
- C. They are all in Christ, so we go to Him for them!
  - 1. we go to Him in learning of Him in the scriptures
  - 2. we go to Him in following His example
  - 3. we go to Him in believing His promises
  - 4. we go to Him in prayer
- D. They are in more mature believers, so we look to them as examples

### CONCLUSION

Hear how graciously the Lord says, “But you...” The world can’t even think straight, and is pursuing the things that lead to destruction. But you! Hear the saving grace of God in that address. But you, who are hearing His word, who are in possession of the truth. Do not go the way of the world. Flee from them, and run to Jesus Christ. He will save you, and He will build you up, and He will see you through this life, and will take you home to heaven when this life is over.

Angie - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 206 “Up From the Grave He Arose” - Andrew lead

Allison - Sheet (attached) “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Allison - Trinity 547 “My Jesus, I Love Thee” - Alex lead

Thad - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Luke 24:1-7

Jeremiah - Scripture Reading - 2 Kings 4:1-17

Jeff - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Philippians 1:3-6

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

E. Other biblical expressions of this

1. Walk
  - a) Proverbs 1:15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path;
  - b) Proverbs 2:20 So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep to the paths of righteousness.
2. Walk in the Spirit - Gal 5:16-23
3. Put off and put on - Eph

Bengel:

“these things” is to be referred to 1 Timothy 6:4-5

JFB:

Applying primarily to Timothy as a minister...but, as the exhortation is as to duties incumbent also on all Christians, the term applies secondarily to him...as a Christian man