

INTRODUCTION

There are things you don't want to be caught by, that you need to avoid, and even run away from! On the other hand, there are good things that you want to catch, to have, to acquire, that are worth running to catch up with!

We continue today learning from how the word of God says we are to flee from such vices as the desire to be rich, and the love of money, and to pursue the virtues that make up the character of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This time, we will consider how we pursue or follow after faith and love, two of the things in this list of virtues here in 1 Timothy 6. The virtues of faith and love are often mentioned together in the apostle Paul's letters, and elsewhere in the Bible, so I'm taking them together.

TEXT

1 Timothy 6:9-11 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

BODY

- I. Faith and Love: Their Object
 - A. In whom do we have faith, and whom do we love? Generally,
 1. our faith is in God
 - a) not in other people
 - b) not in ourselves, as the world teaches
 2. our love is for God and for our neighbor
 - B. Specifically, as was read Eph 1:15 (also Col 1:4), the apostle is referring to
 1. faith in the Lord Jesus, and
 2. love for all the saints
 - C. 1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
 1. believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ
 2. love one another

II. Faith G4102 *pistis*

- A. Mark 11:22-24 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.
- B. Paul referenced this in 1 Cor 13:2
- C. Concept
 - 1. there are good things that should be done, but we cannot do them ourselves, by our own power
 - 2. God will do them by His power
 - 3. He will do them in answer to prayer
 - 4. He will do them in answer to prayer as we trust Him or have faith in Him or believe in Him, not doubting
- D. The sinner looks to become one of the people of God by having faith in Jesus Christ

III. Love G26 *agape*

- A. 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.
 - 1. see how Jesus Christ laid down His life for us
 - 2. so let us love one another as He has loved us
- B. 1 John 3:16-18 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
 - 1. here John is teaching us what Jesus taught him, as we just read in The Gospel of John
 - 2. here the laying down our lives for each other is put in terms of sharing this world's goods with the brother in need
- C. 1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
 - 1. see how God the Father sent His Son for us
 - 2. then love one another

IV. In 1 Timothy

- A. 1 Timothy 1:5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,
- B. 1 Timothy 1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
- C. 1 Timothy 2:15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.
- D. 1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

V. What It Is to Pursue Faith and Love

- A. Both the fruit of the Spirit
 1. Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
 2. Galatians 5:24-25 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
 3. This means that they are produced in us by the Holy Spirit, but we also are to walk in them
- B. To pursue faith and love, we pray that God will grant them to us
 1. Ephesians 3:14-17 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, (16) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, (17) that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
 2. Ephesians 6:23 Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. To pursue faith and love, we work at them
 1. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, (3) remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
- D. To pursue faith and love, we put them on as armor
 1. 1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

CONCLUSION

VI. What Will It Be Like When We Pursue Faith and Love

- A. 2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,
 - 1. our faith will be growing exceedingly
 - 2. our love will abound toward each other
- B. Revelation 2:19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first."
 - 1. our Lord Jesus will know!

Andrew - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Ephesians 1:3-6

~~Willie~~ Jeff - Scripture Reading - Ephesians 1:7-21

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

Jeff - Benediction Ephesians

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 149 "Joy to the World" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 7 "Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God"

Rita - Trinity 293 "Let Children Hear"

Journey - Trinity 188 "There Is a Fountain"

VII. 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

VIII. 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

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. Righteousness G1343 *dikaiousune*

- 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
- F. Godliness G2150 *eusebeia*
1. a life devoted to God
 2. true religion
 3. the worship of God through Jesus Christ, according to the Bible
- G. 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
- H. 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
- I.
- A. 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