

The Pastoral Epistles

I Timothy 6:11-16 “¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 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. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”

This section starts with two imperatives:

1. “flee these things” – This is referring us to the preceding verses that capture a warning about _____, in verses 3-5, and about the pursuit of _____.
2. “pursue” – Timothy is to run after six characteristics consistent with being a “man of God.” They are:
 - 1 Righteousness - _____
 - 2 Godliness - _____
 - 3 Faith – Belief; trust
 - 4 Love – A generous move by one for the sake of _____
 - 5 Steadfastness - _____
 - 6 Gentleness – Meek or kind

Verse 12 also contains two imperatives:

1. “Fight”- as a _____
 - * This reflects training and incentive.
2. “Take hold” – Hang onto
 - * This reflects commitment and conviction

The rest of the passage builds on the expectation of Timothy to “keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach....” I have two questions from this statement.

1. What, specifically, is *the commandment*?

There are several views among scholars.

- 1 The imperatives of verses 11-12 – Easton
- 2 Timothy’s ordination vows – Barrett
- 3 The whole of this epistle – Calvin

4 The full intent of the imperatives of verses 11-12 – Kelly

5 Timothy's faith and ministry – Scott

ETC.

* Pastor prefers interpretation number 5, however, each of them offer legitimate contextual understanding. Why? Verses 11 and 12 set this verse up, but give very general instruction to Christian living. This seems to point to a broad application.

2. Paul appeals to whom as the presiding authority over this conduct?

Primarily – Jesus Christ

1 He “made a good _____.”

2 He will _____.

3 He is the “blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of _____”

4 He “alone has immortality”

5 He “dwells in unapproachable _____”

6 He has never been seen, nor can be seen.

Wait! What about His incarnation? That seems to be the point of this statement. The word “see” is used twice in the phrase and carries a connotation of beholding the true essence of a person. If your soul matched your body, what would you look like? Isaiah says that Jesus had “no form or majesty what we should look at him and no beauty that we should desire him.” Obviously, His physical body wasn't an accurate representation of His glorious deity.

7 He is worthy of all “honor and eternal _____.”