

## I Timothy 6, Sermon #3

I Timothy 6

This is the last message in our series on this book! **sermon #47**

Remember the theme of I Timothy: Sound Doctrine for Church Conduct

That should be determined not by what's popular, what we want, but what God says we ought to be.

Now, I've entitled today's final message "O Man of God"

I Timothy 6:11

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

I Timothy 6:11-16, 20-21

Let us pray

You may be seated.

## “O Man of God”

We have two sections that are special directions/specific instructions for Timothy himself as a man of God.

Vs. 11 begins, “But thou, O man of God”

Vs 20 begins with, “O Timothy”

God identifies the behavior and the character of the Man of God.

This whole discussion starts in vs. 11 with the word, “But.”

Pastor Timothy is in contrast to the false teachers of vs. 3 who taught “otherwise” – opposite – a man of God cannot teach opposite of God’s Word.

The man of God is to be characterized by orthodox, healthy, wholesome truth.

There is a contrast.

You don’t preach what men want to hear, what feels good, man’s knowledge/thinking.

You teach My doctrine!

Notice what Timothy is called - vs. 11

This designation “man of God” is very special! Any person called a man of God or a woman of God, special honor.

It is special with reference to the past, present, and the future.

In a past sense, when God calls someone a man of God, He links him with all the prophets and heroes of the past.

- Moses is called the man of God in Deuteronomy 33:1.
- Samuel is called a man of God in I Samuel 9:6.
- Elijah is called a Man of God
- Elisha is called a Man of God

For God to call Timothy, this young man in the ministry, a man of God, is to link him with those great men of the past.

This is something every believer should strive to be, a man or woman of God. But Timothy is a pastor. He must be a man of God and must continue to be the man of God.

This phrase is only used twice in the New Testament:

- II Timothy 3:16-17
- “Anthropos” – humans – speaks to the man and the woman. So in both cases, a man of God is found in line with the Word of God.

I Timothy 6:11 – O man, vs. 20 – O Timothy

“O” – “O generation of vipers” and “O ye of little faith”

The way this interjection is used is rare in the New Testament, and it indicates intensity. In this closing chapter, Timothy is receiving an intensely given charge.

God honors Timothy with such a title and then charges him with four specific commands.

**1<sup>st</sup> command** is to **flee** (vs. 11) “to run away; escape.” There are certain things the man of God flees.

- God’s man must run from sexual sin – idolatry and youthful lusts.

The present tense of the verb indicates the **man of God** is to constantly **flee from these things**.

A man of God is known by what he flees from.

In this passage he flees the love of money, the love of material goods.

**2<sup>nd</sup> command** is **follow** – there are certain things a man of God pursues.

- The man and woman of God are after these things.

A man of God not only flees from sin, but he is also to continually pursue holiness.

The form here is parallel to II Timothy 2:22, “flee from”, / “pursue” after.

In verse 11, God lists six virtues that every man of God must pursue:

**Righteousness** – to do what is right, in relation to both God and man.

God’s man is known for doing what is right.

**Godliness** has to do with the attitudes and motives.

Right behavior flows from right motives.

**Faith:** a tremendous confidence in God; an unshakable conviction that what God says is so and will always be so.

**Love:** the willingness to sacrifice ourselves for God and man.

**Patience:** under a great weight and instead of throwing in the towel or giving up on things, he bears up under that weight.

**Meekness is** the attitude that we have under pressure or under the weight. Instead of griping and complaining about things, we are steadfast.

1. The man of God is to **flee**

2. The man of God is to **follow**

**3<sup>rd</sup> command** in vs. 12 is **fight**

A man of God is known by what he fights for

Being a man for God calls a man into warfare.

Vs. 12 – The word “fight” is literally the Greek word agonize, struggle – sports arena – athletic – muscles cry out

The Christian life is not easy – agonize.

The ministry is agonizing.

“Agonize” was used in both military and athletic contexts to describe the concentration, discipline, conviction, and effort needed to be successful in the ministry.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> command is to be faithful – lay hold on**

- A man of God is known by what he is faithful to
- Lay hold of the quality of eternal life – eternal life is a possession just like righteousness is a possession, but in practicality – we may be living.

Vs. 14 – **Keep the commandment** – verses 13 and 14 explain that phrase.

Verse 13 tells Timothy why he should **keep the commandment**, and the remainder of verse 14 tells him how he should keep it.

**The commandment** – the entire revealed Word of God.

**First**, he was to keep the Bible without stain or reproach. Not to compromise.

- No blemish or legitimate accusation is to mar his testimony and most important the Church’s and God’s testimony.
- He was to be permanently faithful, **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**, vs. 14.

**Appearing** is a reference to the return of the Lord.

Timothy was to remain faithful all his life, until his death or His Savior’s arrival.

The expectation of his Lord’s imminent return further motivates the man of God.

Now after these four charges, Timothy is reminded to persevere no matter what the cost. There are two persons who will hold him accountable.

Vs. 13 – I give thee charge in the sight of God – and who else? Before Jesus Christ

First thing, Timothy, you remember God gives life to all things.

By the way, this is a tremendous verse for Creation. God is the life giver  
(10 oz. baby was born and survived)

This not only points to the fact that God creates all things, but that God is presently sustaining their life.

- Colossians 1:17, Jesus is before all things and in Him all things WHAT? Consist

It is God who keeps all of the atoms together.

All things are living right now by God.

Acts 17:28, *“For in Him we [are alive] live, and move, and have our being . . .”*

God is in charge of all life.

The second witness is **Christ Jesus, vs.13, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate.**

Our Lord boldly stood His ground, spoke the truth, and entrusted His life to God.

Knowing that it would cost Him His life, Jesus confessed that He was indeed the King and Messiah. He never equivocated in the face of danger.

No wonder that Revelation calls Him “the faithful witness” (Rev. 1:5).

Now he speaks again about God the Father, vs. 15a.

- He = God the Father shall show – in His time – in His own season
- God gives life to all things and He is master of the time.

**Psalm 31:15**, David said, *“My times are in Thy hand.”*

**Daniel 2:21**, Daniel said, *“And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings.”*

God is in charge of all seasons.

Vs. 15, God, the Father, is the Blessed – the only Potentate

- The word “potentate” means the supreme sovereign.
- He is the only Supreme Sovereign and no one made Him the Sovereign.
- No one can remove his sovereignty, vs. 15.

God is the **only Sovereign** because He alone is God (Isa. 40:25-31).

**Sovereign** comes from a word whose basic meaning is “power.”

God is absolutely sovereign. He has unlimited power and He has control over the affairs of this world. Don’t worry, fret, don’t wonder what is going on.

Trust God.

God has no rivals, certainly not Satan. God alone is the **Sovereign**, and He alone is to be worshiped.

God’s sovereignty is further amplified by the title in vs. 15, **King of kings and Lord of lords**.

- Of all the kings of the earth, God is the King of all the kings.
- He is the Lord of all the lords.

Let me put some phrases together.

Verse 11, O man of God – Who is giving life to all things

Who is in control of all the seasons of life

Who is the only Potentate on earth

Who is the King and Lord over all kings and lords – **God**.

And God says, you are the man, Timothy.

What a privilege! Timothy has nothing to fear.

Now, Timothy, you put into practice everything that was given to you regarding church conduct.

The Bible is telling Timothy regarding these four charges, that he needs to live in view of God.

God must be a living Reality to us.

When we serve God, we must keep in mind who God is and what position He has.

Vs. 16 gives us several aspects of God the Father's, person

- The Eternality of God – vs. 6:16a, emphasizes that God **alone possesses immortality** (deathless).
- God is above history and beyond time.

Vs. 16b – God lives in the unapproachable Light.

The holiness of God

. . . Light . . . – separateness, His holiness – no man can approach

. . . None seen . . . – that is His invisibility

This launches into one of the magnificent doxologies of Scripture.

Each phrase expresses the transcendent, incomparable greatness of God.

It is fitting that the doxology ends with a refrain of praise, **to Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.**

★Nothing motivates a man of God like a true understanding of the greatness of his God.★

Let's look now at the closing statement.

vs. 20 – **keep** – it means to **guard, to preserve** – a word used of keeping valuables in a safe place.

Guard the trust. What is the trust? It is the truth of this Book. It is a banking term.



The deposit Timothy was to guard is the truth.

- The most important yardstick by which a church can be measured is not how large it is, how good its fellowship is, or how interesting the pastor is.
- It is not how good the music is, how well the grounds are kept up, or how respected it is in the community.
- **The most important measure of any church is how it handles the Word of God.**

Whether or not they teach and live out Divine truth is the key issue, because the Church's responsibility before God is to guard and proclaim the truths of Scripture.

Consequently, the most severe crime against God is to mishandle His Bible, thus portraying a false, idolatrous image of Him to the world.

Vs. 20 – **avoiding**

A **man of God** realizes there are certain things to be avoided at all cost.

- Avoid these things – **avoiding** means “to turn away from.”
- Profane, empty talk. Empty messages, positive thinking.

Stick with the Bible.

Avoid opposing theories. Don't waste your time.

Avoid anti-thesis – that which opposes God's doctrine

Why should Timothy avoid these false teachings?

Because some who got involved in them, vs. 21, “wandered from the faith.”

Not only will wrong motives (a desire for money) cause a person to wander from the faith (6:10), but so will wrong teachings.

False doctrine must be avoided like the deadly plague it is.

The danger of false teaching is obvious.

The book of I Timothy closes with these words: Grace be with thee, is plural.

**Grace be with you** goes beyond Timothy to embrace the entire congregation at  
Ephesus.

God's favor be with us.

Let us be the men and women of God.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Four characteristics that mark the loyal man or woman of God:

- what he flees from,
- follows after,
- fights for, and
- is faithful to.

We are accountable to God who sees all and Jesus, who demonstrated it.

We cannot be the man or woman of God without being saved first.

God desires that all people be saved from their sins.

That is why God sent His Son, Jesus, to this world.

He died on the Cross, shedding His blood as payment for the sins of all people.

He was buried and then rose again on Easter.

He calls everyone to put their trust in Him.

Will you give God your sins today?

Admit you are a sinner and you have need of salvation.

Will you believe upon Jesus Christ?