

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Orders From Headquarters, 2

Scripture text: 1 Timothy 6

The Pastor Himself (1 Tim. 6:11–16, 20–21)

While caring for the needs of his people, **Timothy needed to care for himself as well.** “Take heed unto thyself” (1 Tim. 4:16) was one of Paul’s admonitions. The phrase “But thou” (1 Tim. 6:11) indicates a **contrast between Timothy and the false teachers.**

They were men of the world, but he was a “man of God.” This special designation was also given to Moses (Deut. 33:1), Samuel (1 Sam. 9:6), Elijah (1 Kings 17:18), and David (Neh. 12:24); so **Timothy was in good company.**

Paul gave **four admonitions** to Timothy that, if obeyed, would assure him success in his ministry and a continued testimony as “a man of God.”

Flee (v. 11a). There are times when running away is a mark of cowardice. “Should such a man as I flee?” asked Nehemiah (Neh. 6:11). But **there are other times when fleeing is a mark of wisdom and a means of victory**. Joseph fled when he was tempted by his master’s wife (Gen. 39:12), and David fled when King Saul tried to kill him (1 Sam. 19:10). The word “flee” that Paul used here did not refer to literal running, but to Timothy’s **separating himself from the sins of the false teachers**.

This echoes the admonition in 1 Timothy 6:5: **“From such withdraw thyself.”** (KJV)

Not all unity is good, and not all division is bad.

There are times when a servant of God should take a stand against false doctrine and godless practices, and separate himself from them.

He must be sure, however, that he acts on the basis of biblical conviction and not because of a personal prejudice or a carnal party spirit.

Follow (v. 11b).

Separation without positive growth becomes isolation. We must cultivate these graces of the Spirit in our lives, or else we will be known only for what we oppose rather than for what we propose.

“Righteousness” means “personal integrity.”

“Godliness” means “practical piety.” **The first has to do with character; the second, with conduct.**

“Faith” might better be translated “faithfulness.” It has well been said **that the greatest ability is dependability.**

“**Love**” is the agape love that sacrifices for the sake of others. **It seeks to give, not to gain.**

“**Patience**” carries the idea of “**endurance**,” sticking to it when the going is tough. It is not a complacency that waits, but a **courage that continues** in hard places.

“**Meekness**” is not weakness, but instead is “**power under control.**” Courageous endurance without meekness could make a person a **tyrant.** Perhaps “**gentleness**” expresses the meaning best.

Fight (vv. 12–16).

The verb means “**keep on fighting!**” It is a word from which we get our English word **agonize**, and it applies both to **athletes and to soldiers**. It described a person **straining and giving his best to win the prize or win the battle**. Near the end of his own life, Paul wrote, “I have fought a good fight” (2 Tim. 4:7).

2 Timothy 4:6-7 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

This “fight,” however, is not between believers; **it is between a person of God and the enemy around him.** He is fighting **to defend the faith**, that body of truth deposited with the church (see 1 Tim. 6:20). **Like Nehemiah of old, Christians today need to have a trowel in one hand for building, and a sword in the other hand for battling (Neh. 4:17).**

It is sad when some Christians spend so much time fighting the enemy that they have no time do to their work **and build the church.** On the other hand, **if we do not stand guard and oppose the enemy, what we have built could be taken from us.**

Nehemiah 4:11-14 And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I **stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.** And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and **fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.**"

Nehemiah 4:15-18 When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. From that day on, **half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail.** And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that **each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.** And each of the builders **had his sword strapped at his side** while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

What is it that encourages us in the battle?

We have “**eternal life**” and need to take hold of it and let it work in our experience. We have been called by God, and this assures us of victory. **We have made our public profession of faith in Christ, and others in the church stand with us.**

Another encouragement in our battle is the witness of Jesus Christ our Savior. He “**witnessed a good confession**” (1 Tim. 6:13) before Pontius Pilate and did not relent before the enemy. **He knew that God the Father was with Him and watching over Him, and that He would be raised from the dead.**

It is “**God who makes all things alive**” (literal translation), who is caring for us, so we need not fear.

Timothy’s natural timidity might want to make him shrink from the battle. **But all he had to do was remember Jesus Christ and His bold confession, and this would encourage him.**

Paul gave Timothy military orders: “**I give thee charge**” (1 Tim. 6:13, also 1:3). **He was to guard the commandment and obey it.**

Why? Because one day the Commander would appear and he would have to report on his assignment!

The only way he could be ready **would be to obey orders** “without spot or blame” (1 Tim. 6:14).

The Greek word translated “appearing” (1 Tim. 6:14) gives us our English word epiphany which means “**a glorious manifestation.**” In Paul’s day, the word was used in the myths to describe the appearing of a god, especially to deliver someone from trouble. Paul used it of the first coming of Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 1:10) and of His return (2 Tim. 4:1, 8). We do not know when Christ will come again, but it will be “in His own time” (1 Tim. 6:15) and He knows the schedule. **Our task is to be faithful every day and abide in Him** (1 John 2:28).

The subject of 1 Timothy 6:16 is God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **He is the only Ruler**, though others may take the title. “Potentate” (1 Tim. 6:15) comes from a word that means “power.” The kings and rulers of the earth may think they have power and authority, but God is sovereign over all (see Ps. 2).

“King of kings, and Lord of lords” (1 Tim. 6:15) makes us think of Jesus Christ (Rev. 17:14; 19:16); but here the title is applied to God the Father. Jesus Christ, of course, reveals the Father to us; so He can justly claim this title.

Revelation 17:11-14 As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. **They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."**

Revelation 19:11-16 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, **a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True**, and in righteousness **he judges and makes war**. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and **the name by which he is called is The Word of God**. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. **On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords**.

“Immortality” (1 Tim. 6:16) means “not subject to death.”

Man is subject to death, but God is not. Only God has immortality as an essential and inherent part of His being. He is “immortal, invisible, the only wise God” (1 Tim. 1:17).

Because God is not subject to death, He is Life and the Giver of life. **He is incorruptible and not subject to decay or change.** In this life, believers are in mortal bodies; but when **Jesus Christ returns, we shall share His immortality** (1 Cor. 15:50–58).

1Corinthians 15:50-53 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **Behold! I tell you a mystery.** We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For **this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.**

1Corinthians 15:54-58 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "**Death is swallowed up in victory.**" "**O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?**" **The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.** But thanks be to God, **who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.** Therefore, my beloved brothers, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**

Keep in mind that Paul explained all these truths about God **in order to encourage Timothy to “fight the good fight of faith” and not give up.** We need not fear life because God is the Ruler of all; and we need not fear death because He shares immortality with us.

Timothy lived in the godless city of Ephesus, **but God dwells in glorious light.**

Exodus 24:17 Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

Psalms 104:2 covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

John's description of heaven emphasized the glory of **God that gives light to the city** (Rev. 21:11, 23–24; 22:5). Of course, **light is a symbol of holiness** (1 John 1:5–7). **God dwells apart from sin, and God is glorious in His holiness.**

It is impossible for a sinful human to approach the holy God. It is only through Jesus Christ that we can be accepted into His presence. Jacob saw God in one of His Old Testament appearances on earth (Gen. 32:30); and God allowed Moses to see some of His glory (Ex. 33:18–23). “No man hath seen God at any time” (John 1:18) refers to seeing God in His essence, His spiritual nature.

We can only see manifestations of this essence, as in the **person of Jesus Christ**.

Why did Paul write so much about the person and glory of God? Probably as a warning against the “emperor cult” that existed in the Roman Empire. It was customary to acknowledge regularly, “Caesar is Lord!” Of course, Christians would say “Jesus Christ is Lord!” **Only God has “honor and power everlasting”** (1 Tim. 6:16b). If Timothy was going to fight the good fight of faith, **he had to decide that Jesus Christ alone was worthy of worship and complete devotion.**

Be faithful (vv. 20–21).

God had committed the truth to Paul (1 Tim. 1:11), and Paul had committed it to Timothy. It was Timothy's responsibility **to guard the deposit and then pass it along to others who would, in turn, continue to pass it on** (2 Tim. 2:2).

This is God's way of protecting the truth and spreading it around the world. **We are stewards of the doctrines of the faith, and God expects us to be faithful in sharing His Good News.**