

## Fight the Good Fight; 1 Timothy 6:11-16

### I. Attention

#### A. There are so many things competing for our attention these days

1. Corporations (and small businesses) want to sell you what they want you to need (Sales normally works on a commission)
2. Employers want you to spend all your time and effort on what is important to them (Your boss's number one problem is your number one problem)
3. The entertainment industry wants you to buy their albums (or watch their TV shows and movies)
4. You can't even drive down the highway without being bombarded by billboards
5. The so-called "free" apps for your phone and tablet are only free because advertisers want your business
6. The media (news and commentators) are all trying to tell you what should be important to you
7. The presidential candidates are trying to guess what is important to you so you will vote for them

#### B. And our attention will be focused on what is important to us

### II. Agonize

#### A. "Fight the good fight of faith" verse 12

#### B. "Fight" - We get the English word "agony" from this Greek word

1. Engage in an athletic contest, struggle
2. Take pains and exert yourself
3. Strain every nerve to enter
4. When we are watching sporting events it is pretty easy to see the difference in the athletes who are not working very hard and the ones who are

#### C. Dedicated athletes put themselves on strict diets

1. They only eat what is beneficial for their body
2. They forego anything that is harmful
3. They may even avoid places that provide harmful food and drink

#### D. I like watching the Winter Olympics

1. Downhill Slalom
2. The contestants come out of the starting gate and you can hear them striving to get momentum quickly
3. You can see them strain every muscle to make the turns
4. Then, as they come to the end of the run you see them trying to get as much speed as they can going through the finish line
5. Then you see them gasping for breath because they exerted every muscle as far as they could

#### E. Is this a picture of our Christianity?

1. Do we only ingest (mind not stomach) things that are beneficial to our Christian walk
2. Do we strive, strain, agonize to complete the race?
3. How important to us is this "eternal life that we are called to"

#### F. Flee - false teaching, controversy, quarrels, envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction

#### G. Pursue

1. Righteousness - living in a manner that is right with God
2. Godliness - a desire to have the same characteristics as God
3. Faith - a relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

4. Love - The greatest command
  5. Steadfastness - enduring toil and suffering for the name of Jesus
  6. Gentleness - with all humility, meekness
- H. Like the athlete who trains to win the gold medal we must also strain, strive, agonize to take hold of eternal life
- III. The Good Confession
- A. Our confession that Christ is the Messiah, the Anointed one of God, the One Sent to redeem mankind
  - B. Matthew 16:13–18; 13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
  - C. Romans 10:8–9; 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
    1. Paul takes this quote from Deuteronomy 30:14 where Moses sets before them life and good, death and evil.
    2. The end result is Moses telling them to obey the commandments of God
    3. Paul is telling Timothy to obey the commandments of Christ because He is the Chosen One, the Messiah
  - D. Our confession that Jesus is the Christ has buried within it our agreement to obey Him; to flee that which is evil and to pursue that which is righteous
- IV. Honor and Dominion
- A. It is important for us to be reminded of God’s worthiness to be praised
  - B. Immortality - the ever living, only living one
    1. He is from before the beginning and will be after the end
    2. Revelation 1:8; “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
  - C. Unapproachable light
  - D. Exodus 24:16–17; 16 The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. 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.
  - E. Honor - worthiness to be praised or worshipped
  - F. Dominion - power, rule, sovereignty
  - G. Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent
- V. Fight
- A. Because of God’s power, we have a savior that redeemed us from sin
  - B. Our confession (and imitation of His death, burial, and resurrection) of that Savior brings us eternal life
  - C. We should strive, strain, agonize to enter that eternal life