

Title: A Final Charge

Ext: I Timothy 6:11-21

Would you open your Bibles, please, to I Timothy chapter 6. I Timothy chapter 6 beginning with Vs 11. We are drawing to a conclusion our study of this little, yet, very powerful letter of Paul to his brother Timothy. A letter which deals with the duties and function of those who would be part of the body of Christ. So, there is much in this letter for everyone of us as members and friends of MacArthur Community Baptist Church.

We come, now, to chapter 6 verse 11...(READ Vs 11-21)

Prayer

We have studied many things in this book. Briefly, let me bring to your remembrance some of these principles.

In chapter one we notice something concerning the charge that was given to Timothy concerning doctrine and those folks who were teaching the LAW instead of the Grace of God. And Paul warns against this false teaching.

Also, in chapter one, Paul gave his own personal testimony. How, before he came to Christ, he was a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor of those who were Christians.

Then, in Chapter 2, Paul begins with a discussion of the duties and functions of members within the church. He discussed, first of all, PRAYER in the public worship of the church. And how prayer should be first on the agenda of things that a church must do.

Then at the end of chapter 2 Paul talked about the place and position of women in the church. And he discussed their responsibilities.

In Chapter 3 Paul deals with the qualification of church officers. There are two: the Bishops or ^{oversers} ~~oversers~~ and Pastors - all referring to the same position; and then there are Deacons.

Then in chapter 4 he told a little of what would happen in ^{later} ~~later~~ Times. The need for christians to constantly nourish ~~themselves~~ themselves on the words of faith and on sound doctrine. He also told us that ^{we} ~~young men~~ should not let people look down on ~~them~~; but be examples of those who believe in speech, conduct, love, fiath and purity. We are told not to neglect the spiritual gift within us and to give ourselves to the reading of scripture, to exhortation and to teaching. We need to take pains with these things; be absorbed in them so that our christian life and testimony may be evident to all people.

Then in chapter 5, Paul deals with the matter of Widows and the responsibility of the church to those who are widows indeed. Those widows who are beyond the possiblity of support should receive their support from the church. This is a responsibility of the church.

and Then in Vs 17 of chapter 5, he talks about the Pastors of the church and how they should be treated; and also how they should be selected.

Re Balance In Chapter 6 Paul deals with the matter of MONEY. And he urges Timothy to have ~~contentment~~ contentment for we have brought nothing into the world and we will take nothing out of the world. And he warned in Vs 10 of chapter 6 that the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil and some ^{people} by their longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and caused themselves much sowor. *and How True That is.*

(3A) Now, we come to the final charge that Paul gave to Timothy. The FINAL CHARGE in this first letter to his brother Timothy. And I would like you to notice that there are *several items* in this FINAL CHARGE.

(1B) First of all, in Vs 11, we have the charge concerning our conduct.

(1C) Paul says, "flee from these things, you man of God." Flee from what things? Everything he has been talking about in the first part of chapter 6. Flee the love of money. Flee the problems of financial gain. And supposing that godliness is gain -- that some how by our life in Christ we can gain financial success. Flee these things ~~things~~ *false attitude*

This is a vital principle for all of us today. We are being pressed on every side by the material things of life. And the Christian often falsely assumes that by the things that he owns --that this will bring him happiness. We all know, if we are honest in our hearts, that material things do not bring lasting happiness. And yet, we are constantly being pressured to believe this. *Dear Friends* WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE? Flee these things. Run away from them. Don't fall into the trap.

(2C) There is, also, a positive side to the coin. In Vs 11 we are told to "pursue (that means to follow after with all of ones strength). We are to "pursue" what? "Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness." *Pursue These Things*

I wonder how much pursuing we are doing with these things? I wonder how much desire within our hearts is concerning these characteristics of living? To produce righteous lives...godly lives...to be people of faith and love? To be able to bear up under the load...to persevere when things get tough. And to be people of gentleness *a* gentle and kind spirit in words and deeds with others.

So, we are told to pursue these things and to flee from the material aspects of the world. Those aspects which pull us away from our first faith in the Lord. Flee the love of money and material possessions. But follow the things that *really* count with God.

(2B) Now, secondly, concerning this fianal charge. In Vs 12 Paul gives us something about the courage of the christian. He says, "fight the good fight of faith."

I remember a fellow, once, saying that he just didn't like to fight. Well, the Bible tells us that we ought to fight. Now, I don't mean physical combat with another person. I mean to fight the good fight of faith. Paul always used the symbol of battle when it comes to living the Christian life. Dear friends, if you don't know that you are in a battle, if you are not aware of the enemy, you will soon be a discouraged christian. That is why many Christian folks get discouraged with their life. They forget that they are in a battle with Satan. Paul makes this clear in Ephesians 6:12. He says, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers and powers of darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness.

So, we are to fight the good fight of faith. And let me tell you..That takes determination. It takes an earnest heart. It takes commitment.

Faith, by the way, is not something that falls out of the sky and fills our lives. Faith is something that God admonishes us to have. That we are to believe God....have faith...trust Him.

Have you every noticed the reference of faith to prayer? Every illustration that Jesus ever gave about faith in prayer was always an illustration about staying power. Have you ever notice that?

For example: Jesus told about a person who came to a friend's house one night around midnight and ask for three loaves of bread. And the friend said NO! "My children are in bed and the hour is late. Come back in the morrowing." But, he finally gave his friend the bread. WHY? Because of the staying power of his friend. He wouldn't give up. And Jesus said..that is the way He wants us to pray. Have faith ..don't give up.

He gave another illustration about a lady who came before an unjust judge that is an unbeliever. And she pleaded with this man, day and night, until the judge gave in and gave her what she wanted - because of her constant pleading. And the Lord said: "that is the way he wants us to pray." Constantly bringing our concerns before the throne of grace. And He even made the statement, "that when he comes again will he find such faith on the earth." People who are praying people. Where prayer is first on their agenda of things that are important to do. People who have an ^{STAYING} earnest heart. We need people of faith. People who in faith believing bring their prayers to God. People who are prayer warriors. Believing that God will do what He says He will do. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH.

Then, Vs 12 says, "lay hold of eternal life." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? Does it mean to receive eternal life?...NO..NO. It doesn't mean that. It means to take possession of that which you already own. Take possession of it. "take hold of eternal life to which you were called." You see, God calls us to eternal life.

(3B) Third, ..In this final charge, we are told , in Vs 14, to KEEP THE COMMANDMENT. Paul said, "that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach." WHAT COMMANDMENT IS PAUL REFERRING TO? WHAT COMMANDMENT ARE WE TO KEEP?

Well, I think you know the commandment as well as I do. Would you take your Bibles and turn to Matthew chapter 22. I think it would be ^{good} well for everyone of us, somehow, to mark within our minds, so that it would never go away, this one commandment that all of God's people should remember. Matthew chapter 22 beginning with Vs 35...(READ Vs 35-40)

Dear friends, this is the testimony of Jesus concerning the GREAT COMMANDMENT. "To love the Lord with all your heart and all your soul and with all of your mind. And the second is just as important: Love your neighbor as yourself."

Now, turn over to the Gospel of John chapter 13. And notice what *Jesus* said during the last meal that he had with his disciple. That last meal before he went to the cross. John 13:34.

READ JOHN 13: 34-35

Now, With all of this background material, let us come back to I Timothy chapter 6 Vs 13. In the midst of his final charge, Paul says "Timothy, I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate; that you keep THE COMMANDMENT without stain or reproach, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I believe that what Paul is referring to --

is that commandment given to us by Jesus himself TO LOVE GOD AND TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. ^{LOVE} ~~AND~~ THIS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW. LOVE.



Now, I am not talking about physical attraction or a fondness. I am talking about the Love of God. The kind of Love that ~~is~~ is willing to give of itself with no thought of receiving. The kind of love that is willing to sacrifice. The kind of love that sent Jesus to the cross to die for us. When we cared little about him, when we didn't care at all, Jesus died for us. That kind of love.

THAT IS THE COMMANDMENT. ^{and} ~~is~~, the one thing that Jesus said would be evidence to the whole world that we are His, is the one thing that will leave the heart of God's people faster than anything else. That is Love

Take that great church of Ephesus. No church had a more tremendous testimony than Ephesus. We read in Revelation chapter 2 that even in spite of all their correct teaching and doctrines and how pure they were right down ^{the} line of the Word of God, yet ~~he~~ ^{Jesus} says I have ~~some~~ ^{this} ~~thing~~ against you. "You have left your first love."

By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. KEEP THE COMMANDMENT.

Then, notice, ~~how we are to keep~~ the commandment. "We are to keep it (Vs 14) without stain or reproach." Nothing is so sad than a love with ~~stain~~ ^{explain} A hypocritical love. A love that is trying to show itself, but ~~down~~ deep inside it is - hypocritical. Keeping it without stain ^{also} - without reproach. In other words, don't give people a chance to reproach your love.

absolutely

How long are we to keep ^{this Commandment} it? Until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (Vs 14). THE OBJECT OF OUR LOVE.

*FV CHARGE TO THE RICH

Faith

(43)

And then, notice, in Vs 17, Paul's charge to the Rich. And Paul is instructing Timothy what to say to those who are rich. I would like you to compare this Vs. with Vs 9. In Vs 9 it says: "But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction." Notice, from this ~~verse~~ ^{verse} it is referring to those who "desire" to be rich - it is not necessarily talking to the rich - but those who "desire" to be rich.

Slavery

9th

But, in Vs 17, he is talking to the rich. "Instruct those who are rich in this present world." A fellow said once that this verse referred to only certain people ^{in the days of Jesus} ~~a few years ago~~, but if Paul were writing today he would apply it to the whole church. Everyone ~~one~~ of us in the church.

"Instruct those who are rich in this present world" to do what?

(1) First, "be not conceited." I wonder when we will learn the lesson that God ^{owns} ~~own~~ all things and he gives so that we might enjoy. Have we not learned that the abundance that we enjoy in America is a gift of God. Have not ^{we} ~~the~~ ^{us} ~~we~~ learned that God has given ~~to~~ ^{us} ~~the~~ wealth.

"BE NOT CONCEITED

(2C) Secondly, don't fix your hope on the uncertainty of riches. (Vs 17)

And how true that is, especially in this day and age. High cost of living...rising interest rates...inflation, people are wondering where will it end. THE UNCERTAINTY OF RICHES. We have no guarantee that our money will be worthy the paper it is printed on. The uncertainty of riches and wealth.

Yet, today with all of our insurance and securities---and by the way--- I believe in all of this. I believe we ought to plan for the future. But, my beloved, when it brings us to the point that we are putting our trust in riches and wealth, then we are violating the Word of God. "Do not fix your hope on the uncertainty of riches." But, trust in the living God(Vs 17) "who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy."

(3C) Third, in Vs 18 Paul suggest four things that the rich should do.

(1D) Number one, "Instruct them to do good." Do not do evil with your money. But do good.

(2D) Two, "be rich in good works." Be the kind of person that is know for your good works in serving the Lord.

(3D) Third, be generous. Do not hord unto yourself. But, be generous for the Lord's work. Helping those in need.

(4D) And fourth, be ready to share. To share what you have with those who are not as fortunate as yourself. Ready to share in the Lord's work.

Now, the question is WHY? Why should we do good, be rich in good works, be generous, and be ready to share? Why?

Vs 19 tells us why. "Storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future." I think Paul is referring back to the words of our Lord Jesus in the sermon on the mount. When Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourself treasures upon this earth where moth and rust will corrupt. But lay up treasures in heaven. Where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

(5B) Then finally, Vs 20 and 21, A FINAL COMMITMENT. "O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you." *Christian, guard what has been entrusted to you*

WHAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO ^{us ?} ~~TIMOTHY~~?

All that we have studied in this letter. All of these principles regarding our duties and responsibilities. All of these things that we have said about prayer, about widows, about the goals of our Christian life which is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith, and to be constantly nourished on the words ~~of~~ of THE FAITH - which is the Word of God - so that we will not be pulled away and fall from the faith in ~~letter~~ ^{letter} times paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons. But to be an example of those who believe in speech, in love, in faith, in conduct, and in all purity.

All of these things --"Guard...live by them...practice them..."

Dear friends, if you are here today and you know Christ, the Bible teaches that God has committed to us "THESE THINGS."

(24) Then in Vs 20, we are to avoid worldly and empty chatter --and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called knowledge which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith." Avoid this...stay away... have nothing to do with them.

3c But, stay fast to the faith...to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed to us in His Word. Then...Grace will be with you.

Shall we close with prayer