Pursue Righteousness

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday September 23rd, 2018

Text: I Tim. 6:9-12

### Intro

1. No matter what the world around us does saints should be striving daily to flee certain things and pursue after righteousness!
2. I Tim. 6:6-8: There is great gain found in contentment.
   1. Godliness is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment *(II Pet. 3:11).*
3. I Tim. 6:9-10: It is easy to be materially minded – The world is full of stuff to enjoy.
   1. Many people look to the material things of the world to seek “great gain.”
      1. The love of money is the wrong path and many there are who fall for its snare, including Christians (“away from the faith.”)
      2. The wrong way eventually brings about sorrow and grief. (Vs. 9)
      3. Is there any profit in its path? *(Mt. 16:26: Not worth losing soul over)*
4. I Tim. 6:11-12: We have a warning not to seek after worldly pursuits, and a pattern of the proper pursuits to follow after.
   1. Where is great gain attained? *In the Pursuit of Righteousness!*
5. In the pursuit of righteousness the Christian must:
   1. Flee (Vs. 11)
   2. Pursue (Vs. 11)
   3. Fight (Vs. 12)
6. There is great gain to be had in the pursuit of righteousness!

#### Flee

* 1. I Tim. 6:9-10: Christians are to *flee* (I Tim. 6:11) certain things:
     1. Flee from the snare of the love of money.
     2. Flee from harmful desires.
     3. Flee from plunging into ruin and destruction.
  2. It is no sign of weakness to run from danger, when that danger can destroy our souls *(Mt. 16:26: “What profit is it to gain the whole world but lose one’s soul?”).*
  3. The idea is to flee from the temptation stage so we do not fall into sin.
     1. II Tim. 2:22: “Flee from youthful lusts” (Heb. 13:4).
     2. I Cor. 10:13: We will not be tempted above and beyond what we can handle, so that means there is an escape, and we must take it.
  4. There is danger in not fleeing from temptation & lust! *(Gen. 4:7: Sin crouching at door)*
     1. Js. 1:14-15: Lust (not checked) turns into sin, which brings forth death.
     2. Spiritual L.S.D., which can eternally destroy a soul if not repented for.
  5. Ruin, not “great gain,” comes to those who do not flee from sin!

#### Pursue

* 1. I Tim. 6:11: Not the pursuit of whatever we want to do, but after righteousness.
  2. There are certain things in God’s word we should be following after:
     1. I Tim. 6:11: After righteousness.
        1. Rom. 6:16: We are to be obedient to it to become slaves to it.
        2. Mt. 6:33: We are to “seek after” it!
     2. I Tim. 6:11: After godliness.
        1. Tit. 2:11-12: This is to be like God (Eph. 5:1: “Imitate God”).
        2. In “godliness” comes “great gain” *(I Tim. 6:6)* with contentment.
     3. I Tim. 6:11: After faith.
        1. I Jn. 5:4: Faith is behind everything and overcomes the world!
        2. Eph. 6:16: To have faith as a shield will defeat Satan.
     4. I Tim. 6:11: After love: Our motivation for obedience.
        1. Gal. 5:6: We show how faith ought to work!
        2. II Jn. 6: We show God our love when we obey Him.
        3. Col. 3:14: Love is the bond that unites us and holds it all together.
     5. I Tim. 6:11: After perseverance.
        1. Heb. 12:1; Js. 1:2-7: It is endurance to finish the course.
        2. Heb. 10:35-36: The “great reward” comes to those with endurance!
     6. I Tim. 6:11: After gentleness. (II Tim. 2:24-25: Even in correction)
        1. Gal. 5:22-23: This involves the right kind of attitude.
  3. These things are part of living “by the Spirit” (Gal. 5:25) and we ought to pursue them!

#### Fight

* 1. I Tim. 6:12: Not enough to flee lusts, and pursue righteousness, but we must “Fight the good fight of faith.” *(I Cor. 15:58: This is to be immovable and to have perseverance)*
  2. We cannot run away from every confrontation:
     1. Js. 4:7: Life is a battle against the enemy.
     2. I Pet. 5:8-9: “Resist,” “Firm in your faith.”
        1. These indicate being strong and grounded in faith.
        2. Often one can’t do that without fighting for the faith.
  3. Heb. 10:39: We must have the endurance to “not shrink back” but “have faith to the preserving of the soul” no matter life’s adversities.
  4. Jude 3: We are to “contend earnestly for the faith.”
     1. “Contend” is to fight.
     2. I Tim. 1:18-19: To fight the good fight of faith one must have a “good conscience.”
  5. “Contending earnestly for the faith” includes pointing out error and correcting it:
     1. I Tim. 4:6: Pointing out the things in *Vss. 1-5.*
     2. II Tim. 1:7: God has granted to us power, love, and *discipline.*
     3. *II Tim. 4:1-5:* Charged with not compromising with error, to stand against it.
  6. Fight for the faith so you can “take hold” of eternal life, and truly have “great gain!”

## Conclusion

1. To truly have “great gain” the Christian is to flee lusts, pursue righteousness, and fight for faith.
   1. I Tim. 6:12: Eternal life is the result.
   2. To take hold of eternal life, one must fight the good fight of faith.
2. To be rewarded with eternal life is to truly have “great gain” (I Tim. 6:6)
3. There are those who are rich in the world but poor in God.
   1. Rev. 3:17: In Laodicea the church was materially rich and they thought they had everything they needed.
   2. Jesus said: They were “wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.”
   3. God said they needed to be zealous and repent (Rev. 3:19).
4. There are those who are poor to the world’s standards but rich in God.
   1. Rev. 2:9: The church at Smyrna was poor materially, but their faith and perseverance made them rich to God.
   2. Their reward for remaining faithful: The crown of life *(Rev. 2:10)*
5. In the pursuit of righteousness is found “great gain”: Eternal life!
6. What are your pursuits? Will they make you rich or poor in the eyes of God?
7. If not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized! Eternal life is greater gain than anything the world can offer!
8. If a Christian, flee, follow, and fight! If you have erred, repent & fight on!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!