Men's Sunday Night
A Study in the Book of 1 Timothy
Lesson 8 – Timothy 6:11-16, 20-21
A Blueprint for Living
"Final Charge"

Paul now, gives a warning to Timothy, because Christian leaders can be led astray by false values and a desire for material gain. Demas forsook Paul because he loved the world, Judas sold Christ for thirty pieces of silver. Note that Paul called this youthful pastor a "man of God." What an encouragement! Note the following three exhortations: flee, follow, and fight. Flee these things: pride, covetousness, false teachings. Sometimes the finest thing the Christian soldier can do is run. In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul commands him to "*Flee youthful lusts*." This is what Joseph did when Potiphar's wife tempted him. But it is not enough to flee. We must also follow, and we must also fight. Paul points to the example of Christ when He made His courageous witness before Pilate. "*We serve the King of kings!"* writes Paul. "Be faithful until He comes. When He comes, He will honor you for your good work."

In verse 20 we see the word "knowledge" mentioned but to Paul it was a false knowledge. He was no doubt referring to the Gnostics who claimed to have "full knowledge" about the universe; not too different from some of our philosophers today. These false teachers at Ephesus were disturbing young Timothy with their high-sounding theories and their questions about the Word of God. Paul goes on by warning him not to get involved with this "*profane and vain babbling*"! The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

What is Timothy's responsibility? To "guard the deposit" that God committed to him through Paul. God had given the Gospel message, the deposit of truth, to Paul who had in turn committed it to Timothy. Timothy was to guard it and pass it on to others (2 Timothy 2:2). This is the task of the church today; may we be faithful to guard the deposit and pass it on to others!

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-12. Pray and answer the following questions:

1. Of all the titles Paul could have chosen to refer to his young friend, why do you suppose he picked "man of God"? How would this be a special encouragement to Timothy?

2. What does Paul say Timothy should pursue in 6:11?

3. For the second time in this letter Paul tells Timothy to "*fight the good fight*" of faith. Why is it especially appropriate for Paul to use this image to talk with Timothy about the Christian walk?

4. When you think of the Christian life as a "fight," what comes to mind? What weapons do we have to fight with? What are we fighting for?

5. How can Timothy or any of us, "*lay hold on eternal life"?*

Read 1 Timothy 6:13-16. Pray and answer the following questions:

6. What great event is foretold in 6:14? How does Paul use this event to motivate Timothy to godliness?

7. Paul describes seven characteristics of God in 6:15-16. List them and discuss the importance of each.

8. The idea of a positive "confession" is a common and important biblical theme (6:13-14). Note these following verses: 2 Chron. 6:24-26; John 1:20; 12:42; Rom. 10:9-10, 14:11; Phil. 2:11; Heb. 3:1, 13:15. What does the word confession mean to you?

9. What is accredited to God at the end of 6:16? Why do you think Paul would focus on these two points?

Read 1 Timothy 6:20-21. Pray and answer the following questions:

10. What does Paul instruct Timothy to do at the beginning of 6:20? How is this a good summary of everything that has been written in this letter?

11. What negative command does Paul give in 6:20? Do you believe such commands are necessary for today? Why or why not?

12. What is the significance of Paul's last sentence, "*Grace be with you*"? Paul both began this letter and finished it with the word Grace. Why do you think this is?

A Great Final Word from Jon Courson

As a sophomore in high school, I listened as Mr. Flanner, my science teacher, gave us reason after reason why evolution is so certain. This intrigued me because at the beginning of the semester, he had taught us that all of science is built upon the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which says that everything goes from order to disorder, that everything is winding down. We know this to be so. Every second of every minute, the sun loses 1,200,000 tons of mass. As a result, scientists tell us that eventually the sun will burn out. This means that if we go back fifteen million years the length of time required by the evolutionary process to bring life as we know it to our planet the sun would be substantially larger than it is now, causing the average temperature on earth to exceed three hundred degrees which would kill the very life forms that were supposedly evolving into men. It just doesn't add up! And scientists are increasingly coming to this conclusion.

"Because there is no God; because we came from slime, we can act like slime," says the unbeliever. And *that's* the issue, gang. The issue is not scientific, academic, or intellectual. The issue is moral. People innately know there is a divine design to the universe. They know it in their hearts. They see it in the sky. It rings true in their souls. But because the so-called intellectuals don't want to be accountable to a Creator, they simply remove God from the picture.

Guns, rape, and profane behavior of every type have replaced chewing gum, un-tucked shirts, and talking in class as the prevalent problems in our high schools. And educators are stymied. "What's wrong with the culture?" they ask. They give lectures and bring in motivational speakers to try to instill values in their students all the while blind to the obvious fact that if kids are taught they came from animals, they're bound to act like animals. Understanding what they innately know to be true that they were created by God would affect the way students would view life, one another, and themselves. But take away that underpinning and we are currently reaping the result. And if you are one who says, "I know God created the earth and everything in it," my question to you is this: Do you live as though that were true? God created you for one reason: To bring Him pleasure. Therefore, if you please God this week, you will fulfill the very reason for your existence. It is in bringing joy and pleasure to the heart of God through worship, Bible study, family devotions, personal contemplation, prayer, meditation, and submission that we disarm Darwin, expose evolution, and silence the skeptic. Mr. Flanner had a Master's Degree, but I, a lowly sophomore, understood the Decree of the Master, and that made all the difference.