

Sermon study 1 Timothy 6:11-21 “The Good Fight”

Use this outline as a guide. You can talk about it a different way if you like but whatever you do make sure the depth of this study is depth of APPLICATION. Do not make it your goal to get sidetracked determining the meaning. The goal is to move forward from the message into actual real life and specific application. Be creative and follow up about application. Imagine a church where the people actually applied what they learned. Wow.

The problem this sermon addresses

A passive view of sanctification. We do not realize that the Christian life is supposed to be a fight. In other words we hold to a doctrine of preservation without perseverance.

CPT:

Last week we ended saying:

God is not as concerned to give you power and position and privilege in this life as He is to prepare you for real power and position and privilege in the next. Our attitude here and now is the issue. If you seek godliness, you will find contentment. If you seek anything else and you will find destruction.

So what is it like to seek godliness?

It is a fight to persevere in the gospel moment by moment.

Sanctification is a battle. We are to demonstrate it. We are to declare it. We are to defend it.

Main Idea:

Christian, you are supposed to be in a fight. Sanctification is an inner war. Your perseverance is evidence of His preservation.

I. The Battle (1 TIMOTHY 6:11-12)

A. Paul tells Timothy to flee the false desires of 6:3-10, and to pursue sanctification. He says that this is the good fight. That this is the taking hold of the eternal life that is His IN Christ.

1. Three aspects make up Paul’s command to fight for sanctification. Flee, follow, and fight.

a) Flee

(1) Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10. What is Timothy to flee?

(2) What are the opposites of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness? Flee these things.

(3) Discuss the following idea:

(a) your desire to be righteous must win over your desire to have status.

(b) your desire to be godly must win over your desire to be worldly.

(c) your desire to be faithful must win over your desire to be pragmatic.

(d) your desire to be loving must win over your desire to be self-serving.

(e) your desire to be steadfast must win over your desire to be tolerant.

(f) your desire to be gentle must win over your desire to boast.

b) Follow

(1) Read 2 Peter 1:3-11. What is Timothy to follow after here? What empowers him in this pursuit?

c) Fight

(1) Read Philippians 3:8-14. To attain the Resurrection is to experience the Resurrection life. This is our battle.

(a) Read Hebrews 1:3-4. How serious is this battle?

2. Take the time to discuss this article: <http://hnrc.org/articles/the-puritan-view-of-holiness>

II. Demonstrate It (1 TIMOTHY 6:13-16)

A. Paul exhorts Timothy to keep the command to battle for sanctification unstained by demonstrating it in his own life.

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:15-20. Timothy is charged to be a walking example of the gospel in sanctification. A walking picture of grace.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-25. How does one keep the command to battle for sanctification unstained? Perseverance when it hurts.
3. Are you a demonstration of perseverance in your own life to others? Why or why not? Do people even see you battling to be like Christ?

III. Declare It (1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19)

A. Paul tells Timothy to command rich people to battle for sanctification not trusting in their riches to give them power, privilege and position.

1. Read Luke 12:13-21. How does this relate specifically to your own life and priorities right now?

IV. Defend It (1 TIMOTHY 6:20-21)

A. Timothy is to guard the good deposit of sound teaching entrusted to him avoiding the irreverent babble that will shipwreck our faith.

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:12-14. Notice the deposit is called the pattern of sound words. In our case here this would be the sound words that relate to the call to battle for sanctification.
2. What kinds of teachings and thoughts can threaten the commands of 6:11-12?

V. Preservation

A. The doctrine of God's preservation of believers is clearly taught in Scripture.

1. Read Philippians 1:6 and John 6:37-39.
2. The ramifications of this belief are stated in Romans 8. Read this aloud.

VI. Perseverance

A. The doctrine of the perseverance of the saints is the same doctrine but from man's end. **YOUR PERSEVERANCE IS EVIDENCE OF GOD'S PRESERVATION.**

1. Read Colossians 1:21-23. Do you see perseverance?
2. Read Hebrews 3:7-19. Notice that perseverance is noted as either faith or lack of it in verse 19.
3. Read 1 John 2:19. Perseverance is proof of God's preservation.
4. Read 1 Peter 1:3-7 notice that perseverance and preservation are two sides of the same coin.
5. If you are not experiencing a battle maybe its because you are not in one. Discuss
6. Discuss these two articles or aspects of either, time permitting.
 - a) <http://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-perseverance.html>
 - b) <http://www.gospelweb.net/SpurgeonMTP28/spursermon1688.htm>

VII. God's Masterpiece

A. Read Philippians 2:12-16. What is God's will? Read Ephesians 2:10. To complete His masterpiece...you!

If you are today on your back and you have fallen. Get up. You are on the winning team.

"This life, therefore, is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not what we shall be, but we are on the way, the process is not yet finished, but it is actively going on. This is not the goal but it is the right road. At present, everything does not gleam and sparkle but everything is being cleansed."

-Martin Luther

You are a masterpiece in the making. Discuss specific application.