



First Timothy

Do Good

It's the Right Thing

I Timothy 6:11

Lesson Thirty-One

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum



First Timothy

A Study of the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to His Son in the Faith

Do Good—I Timothy 6:11

At the beginning of the Scripture lesson for today, Paul said, “flee from these things.” What in the world was he talking about? He is referring back to Paul’s warning about living for riches and how that can lead a person the wrong way. (I Timothy 6:9:10) Read I Timothy 6:11.

He began this part of his letter by calling Timothy a “man of God.” That phrase may not mean anything special to us, today. But, to Timothy who knew the Old Testament, it had great meaning. It was a title given to Moses (Deuteronomy 33:1) to Eli (I Samuel 2:27) to Samuel (I Samuel 9:6 to Elijah (I Kings 17:18) to Shemaiah, God’s messenger to Rehoboam (I Kings 12:22) and to others.

Timothy is God’s man. And he must behave like it. We must learn from this. God, through Paul, didn’t remind Timothy of his human weakness or his lack of experience, He gave him the honor of calling him God’s man. We should always try to challenge others to serve God, not by putting them down, but by reminding them of the fact that they are chosen of God and blessed by God for service.* That is not a psychological trick, or putting someone on, just to get them to do something. It is helping people see the right reason for doing good. The way Christians challenge one another is not to dredge up the past and all past failures, but to show one another the outstanding opportunities they have in their future with God.

Timothy had received his ministry from the King of Kings. He should see the importance of it, the seriousness of it and the honor of it. Then, Paul lists things for Timothy to want to be:

First, there is righteousness. The basic meaning of this word is to be right. But it means also that the person who is righteous does what is right with other people, and does what is right with God. You do for God and for other humans what you should do. You treat them as they should be treated. You respect them as they should be respected. (See Matthew 5:6)

Second, there is godliness. This is behaving in the right way, knowing God is watching. You may remember a time when you thought you could get away with things, just because your parents weren’t watching. And, sometimes that was true...parents can’t be everywhere all the time. But God can! So, to be godly, you behave in the sight of God as He would have you behave. Godliness and good behavior are about the same thing.

Third, there is faith. This is about loyalty. When one has faith in something or someone, they are totally and absolutely loyal. The person of faith is someone who, no matter what life brings, is completely loyal. This, of course, includes loyalty to God as He was revealed in our Savior, Christ Jesus.

Fourth, there is love. This is closely kin to faith. This is about commitment. You give yourself to someone without any reservation. There is no consideration of alternative. This is something you would never give up, even if you thought you could. We are reminded here of Paul’s statement elsewhere, “Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust (faith),

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no fading of its hope. It can outlast anything..." (I Corinthians 13:6, 7a, J.B. Phillips translation) Love never fails.

Fifth, there is endurance. This is not the kind of living that just folds the hands and waits for whatever will happen. This endurance deals with trials, temptations, attacks by Satan, and the disrespect of other humans. These things are not just accepted without response, the Christian comes through them with victory. Faith holds, behavior is godly. Faith doesn't change, and love blesses both the situation and those who cause it.

Sixth, there is gentleness. What an interesting choice of Christian characteristics for Paul to make. He is challenging Timothy who is battling a group of people who would take over the church and fool people about the way to salvation. Yet, Paul says that Timothy should be gentle. One writer has describe this as "patience with difficult people." But, it has more in it than that. This gentleness is that which is quiet and understanding when you are attacked. But it gets very angry when someone else is attacked. This is a forgiving spirit. But it also is committed to right behavior and stands up against those who do wrong. This gentleness is about the one who knows how weak and sinful they are and are humbled by God's call on their lives.

What can we learn from today's lesson. First and foremost, we should realize and appreciate the fact that we are God's chosen. We, like Timothy, are the children of the great and gracious God. He loves us and wants our lives to be good and to be a blessing to others.

Second, He expects us, as His representatives here on earth, to be like Him so that we can guide others to be His children and to live like Him. The outline for doing this is very clear. The six things Paul challenged Timothy to do are a sort of GPS, a roadmap, to success in Christian living and in being the kind of witness God needs to grow His Kingdom. It is about doing good for God, for others and for ourselves.

We might also note that these six things sound a lot like the list of "fruit of the Spirit" as Paul wrote them in Galatians 5:22,23; and the qualifications of elders (church leaders) that he listed in I Timothy 3:1-3.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to live like God's chosen.

Scripture Memory: "Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. I Timothy 6:11b

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Student Worksheet—Following Through

Do Good—I Timothy 6:11

>We should always try to challenge others to serve _____, not by putting them down, but by reminding them of the fact that they are _____ and blessed by God for _____.

>What are the things Timothy should want to be and do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

>What are two things we should learn from this lesson?

1.

2.

For Memory: “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. I Timothy 6:11b

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.