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THE BEREANS


ACTS 17:11

1 Timothy 6:11-16
Lesson #20
Fight the right fight
09/10/2023

1

Tests of Character:


blessing and
Injustice



2

Tests of Character:

wealth and
poverty



3

1 Timothy 6

About the church (1-10)

1 Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine may not be spoken against. 2 And let those who have believers as their masters not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but let them serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and rebuke those principles. 3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing, but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. 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. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang of grief.

About Timothy (11-16)

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith, take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 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, 14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which He will bring about at the proper time—the who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

About the church (17-19)

17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 saving up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is indestructible.

About Timothy (20-21)

20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge” — 21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

4

1 Timothy 6

1 Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine may not be spoken against. 2 And let those who have believers as their masters not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but let them serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and rebuke those principles. 3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing, but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. 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. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang of grief.

Social reform is not our hope for peace.

6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.

Material wealth is not our hope for peace.

But how can we resist this?

11 But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of (the) faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 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, 14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords; 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

5

“20 O Timothy, **guard** what has been entrusted to you, **avoiding** worldly and empty chatter and the **opposing** arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge” — 21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.”

Paraphrase

Pursue godliness, but not as a means of hope for worldly rights and riches.

Fight for the hope of the Gospel, with Jesus as its model, who bore a cross on his way to a crown.

This is your stewardship to proclaim, guard, and model.

6

1 Timothy 6

“11 But flee from **these things**, you man of God;”

What are “these things”?

The temptation of **Eve** in Gen.3:1-7

(walking by sight, not faith)

and of **Christ** in Matt.4:1-11

(bread alone, presumption,
ends justify the means).

Worldly hope for peace and life through
social justice and material wealth.

7

The WAY of the CROSS
is the Christian’s calling in this life.

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the **poor in spirit**,
for theirs is the kingdom (**domain**) of heaven.”

2 Corinthians 4

“7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always **carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.** 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death works in us, but life in you.”

The church has **ALWAYS NEEDED** to hear this.

8

1 Timothy 6

“11 But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue **righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.** 12 Fight the good fight of (the) faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

- **Character must be a visual aid to the message if it is to be heard.**
- **The heart of the Gospel is the Word and Way of the Cross.**
- **This passage is a reiteration of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.**

9

Ephesians 4

“17 This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the **futility of their mind**, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not **learn Christ in this way**, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

10

1 Timothy 6

“11 But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue **righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.** 12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you **made the good confession** in the presence of many witnesses.”

As Alien Ambassadors we are to lead with our character and conduct, not our loud voice.

1 Peter 3:15

“sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to **give an account for the hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence;”

11

1 Timothy 6

“11 But **flee** from these things, you man of God; and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 **Fight** the good fight of faith; **take hold** of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

God works in and through us with what He has already given us.

God will not work in us if we are passive, or uninvolved.

Philippians 2


“12 . . . **work out** your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both **to will and to work** for His good pleasure. 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;”

12

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How do we respond to circumstances and wealth?



Worldly hope
Circumstances & Wealth

flee **pursue**

Kingdom hope
Cross and Contentment

Ephesians 4:22, 24
“lay aside the old self”
“put on the new self”

13

Philippians 2

“5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by **becoming obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross.”

- **The WAY of the CROSS is an attitude of sacrificial service that is expected of both the “have nots” and the “have lots”.**
- **The peace and power of Jesus did not need social justice or material wealth.**

14

1 Timothy 6

“13 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**,”

(Matt.27, Jn.18) Jesus (before Pilate) was

- **Courageous in authenticating his calling.**
- **Content in accepting his circumstances.**

Matthew 27

“11 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And Jesus said to him, “**It is as you say.**” . . . 14 And (when falsely accused) **He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge**, so that the governor was quite amazed.”

15

1 Timothy 6

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Two things to remember

- **God sets the domain of life.**
- **God anoints us, more than our circumstances.**
- **Jesus shines through the demeanor of our response to life’s circumstances.**

16

1 Timothy 6

“14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**, 15 which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords; 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.”

- **We bear a cross in this life, as we wait for the crown in the next.**
- **Don’t expect the fullness of the kingdom before its time and without its King.**

17

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EXPECTATIONS are critical.
both before and after Christ’ “appearing”.

We bear a cross to a banquet.
We are Alien Ambassadors in this world and witnesses to a hope that comes with the “King of kings”.

18

The main thing is
to keep the main thing,
the main thing.

Note what is NOT a main thing.

- **Productivity** - This is left up to God.
- **Popularity** - This is out of style for Aliens.

Note what IS a main thing.

- **Posture** - Inner attitude, values, character.
- **Perspective** - The big / eternal picture.

19

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1 Timothy



21