

1 Timothy 6:11-21

April 8, 2020

This letter was written later in Paul's life. Earlier epistles were written to churches; this one is *about* the church. What is the difference?

In many previous letters, particularly those to the Corinthians, Galatians, and Colossians, Paul directly uses his apostolic authority to identify and correct specific doctrinal errors such as divisive misuse of gifts, legalism, and gnosticism – the issues of the time.

In the pastoral letters, he is giving instructions to build up the *church*, which will collectively take over the role of “guarding the deposit” of truth entrusted to it. Timothy is not to act alone but as part of a body of believers, with Christ as the Head, each given unique gifts but shared responsibility. Together they are to be the pillar and buttress of the truth, a *system*.

For study and discussion:

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:22 along with verse 11 in this passage. What is the common thing we should flee from?
2. What are we to follow instead?
3. What does it mean to take hold of eternal life? Is it the same life as in verse 19?
4. What “good confession” did Christ Jesus make before Pontius Pilate?

We must read Paul's earnest exhortations to Timothy as our solemn charge as well. In this portion, he pleads “O man of God” and “O Timothy” to preserve and protect what God in His grace has given us – truth about Him and directions for the “household of God” where that truth is upheld.

Notes

6:12 “Fight” in this verse is a word used for athletic contests, so means contend rather than combat.

6:14 In the epistles, the “appearing” or manifestation of the Lord always refers to His coming to earth in judgment (Rev. 19) but “coming” refers to His coming for His saints at the rapture.

6:19 KJV has “eternal life” at the end of this verse but the Greek word is different than in verse 12. It's probably better to say “that which is truly life.”

6:21 Departing from the faith does not mean apostasy and/or loss of salvation, but rather, leaving the genuine teachings of Christianity. Cf 1 Tim. 2:1, 3:9, 4:1, etc.

5. What is Timothy told to keep and guard, in verses 14 and 20? How is the word “deposit” particularly appropriate?
6. What does the doxology of verses 15 and 16 tell us about God the Father and God the Son?
7. When is the “appearing” of our Lord Jesus Christ? Why is “appearing” instead of “coming” used in this context?
8. Having addressed the unhealthy pursuit of wealth earlier in the chapter, Paul now turns to those who happen to be rich. What does he tell Timothy to have them do?
9. What are some modern examples of the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge”? (ESV)