

O Man of God!

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Timothy 6:11-16; 20-21.

B. These letters are encouraging to those who have to face difficulty and demand in the world.

C. Paul calls Timothy “man of God,” a title reserved for the prophets in the Old Testament.

1. Only Timothy is called this in the New Testament.

2. This combines two remarkable features—weak man and powerful God.

3. The glory of Christianity is God in man.

II. The man of God is to...

A. Flee certain things.

1. We are to flee immorality on all occasions.

2. There are times in our Christian life when the only defense we have is a good set of heels.

3. We are to flee false teachers characterized by...

a. Conceit.

b. Combativeness.

c. Avarice.

B. Follow after other things.

1. Righteousness.

a. We have been made righteous by God.

b. Our behavior does not make us acceptable—God makes us acceptable when we believe in Jesus.

2. Godliness.

a. This puts a relationship with God first.

b. Godliness is balanced wholeness.

3. Faith.

- a. This is loyalty to God.
- b. This makes a person steady, dependable, and exciting.

4. Love.

- a. The end of our endeavor is love out of a pure heart.
- b. When the people grow, you have a church that is alive.

5. Steadfastness.

- a. This is refusing to let up.
- b. The mark of a Christian is an unwillingness to quit.

6. Gentleness.

C. Fight the good fight of faith.

- 1. The Christian life is a battleground.
- 2. We fight the good fight by taking hold of the eternal life, with which we began our experience. (Ephesians 6)
- 3. We must practice the presence of Christ. (I Corinthians 1:9)

III. The God before whom we stand.

- A. God is the giver of life. When you lack life, you can only get it from the Living God.
- B. There is encouragement before Jesus because He is coming again.
 - 1. Timothy is urged to keep the commandment to love one another.
 - 2. God has made provision for cleansing for those who have fallen.
 - 3. Jesus' return is in God's hands and in its own time.
 - 4. Jesus is king of all the earth—immortality belongs only to the gospel.
 - 5. The great news of the gospel is that the invisible God has been made known by Jesus Christ.

IV. We are to guard the truth and use it rightly.

- A. We must remove what is counterfeit.
- B. Secular humanism today is counterfeit—it never recognizes God.

Application questions:

1. What experience do you have with false teachers? Was your response characterized by flight?

2. Which of the things we are to follow after is the most challenging for you? How can God help you in this?

3. How can we gain encouragement when we lack life?
