

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN
(1 Timothy 6:3-21)

I. Fear those voices that would divide (vs. 3-5).

- A. In life and in the church, there are some that are to be avoided.
- B. Thankfully Paul does not leave us in the dark as to who those are.
- C. We should fear and avoid those that teach contrary to the truth.
 - 1. Paul mentions those that teach other than what Paul has previously written.
 - 2. These teach a different doctrine.
 - 3. It is not a doctrine of godliness but of selfishness.
- D. We should fear and avoid the voice of conceit.
 - 1. This person has an inflated sense of self.
 - 2. For proud, some Bibles have a footnote that says fool.
 - 3. He is ignorant about God's word and knows nothing about it because he has twisted it to his liking.
 - 4. This person is constantly involved in that which does not truly matter, but does so only to him.
 - 5. He injures himself, Christians and the church as a whole through envy, strife, railings and false thoughts about others.
- E. We should fear and avoid the voice that is corrupt.
 - 1. This person has a sinful thought process.
 - 2. The reason for this is that he has no possession of truth.
 - 3. He misuses and abuses his mind and has a warped sense of truth.
 - 4. He believes that godliness is a way to get gain and uses it for such.
 - 5. Religion to this person is all about what he can get out of it.
- F. From these type people we are to withdraw ourselves.

II. Flee sins that destroy (vs. 6-11).

- A. The word flee carries the idea of get away from quickly.
 - 1. All sins need to be removed from as quickly as possible.
 - 2. There are some sins that completely change your way of life and focus.
 - 3. Haste must be used when facing these.
- B. Lack of contentment is one of them.
 - 1. Contentment can be defined as realizing what we do have instead of resenting what we don't.
 - 2. One who is discontent will show it through not being satisfied with anything and not trusting others.
 - 3. Paul reveals the answer to discontent:
 - a. We should look at our limitations because we can't carry the whole world even if we could have it.
 - b. Realize how little we really need - food and clothing, which gives us enough to do God's will.
- C. The love of money is another.
 - 1. There is nothing wrong with money, but desiring to be rich is the problem.

2. This generally takes us away from God because it becomes our focus.
 3. It becomes a lust for it and leads to spiritual death
- D. Leaving the faith is the third.
1. This is really the culmination of the first two.
 2. When we lack contentment we begin to love money which leads to us leaving the faith.
 3. This simply brings many sorrows and not contentment.

III. Follow that which will develop faith (vs. 11).

- A. To fight discontent, we must have goals and aims.
- B. We need to focus on righteousness, being in a right relationship with God.
- C. Godliness comes from being right with God and having a desire to be more like Him.
- D. This leads to greater faith in God.
- E. It leads to greater love for God and man.
- F. It leads to greater endurance in times of strife.
- G. It leads to greater humility and service to God.

IV. Focus on that which is definite (vs. 12-16).

- A. In the midst of storms there are some things we as Christians can count on.
- B. We have a caring God who gives life to all things.
- C. We have a Savior who was courageous in the face of death.
- D. There is also a coming judgment.
 1. This will show the authority of Jesus (Potentate is a shot at the Pope by the Church of England translators - simply means possessor of authority).
 2. It will show the splendor and glory of Jesus.
 3. It will show His unmatched power.
 4. It will also show the counterfeits of men.

V. Fight for the victories that are desirable (vs. 17-21).

- A. We are to fight the good fight of faith, but where are the battle zones or the areas of conflict?
- B. One is the battle of humility versus highmindedness.
 1. Conceit towards God is futile and foolish.
 2. Those uncertain riches will only fade away and be destroyed but humility before God will be rewarded.
- C. Another is the battle of generosity versus greed.
 1. Paul says for those who are rich in worldly goods to be rich in good works.
 2. They need to be open to good works.
 - a. Ready to give.
 - b. Communicate means to support and generally is used of missionaries in the New Testament.
 3. Verse 19 reveals that they will be rewarded for those good works.
- D. A third battle is that of truth versus the trivial.
 1. We should view the truth as a sacred trust.

- a. God has placed the truth in His word.
 - b. We then have the obligation to handle it correctly and use it properly.
2. We should view the trivial as a real threat.
- a. Those things that don't matter cause us to err.
 - b. It is seen by others and those type things lead from a departure from the faith.

From outline by Winfred Clark in "Expositions of the Expositor."