

July 27 CGH

**1Ti 6:11-12 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. (12) Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**

We have seen Paul's warnings against the love of money, especially those called in the service of God through the ministry. In his commentary, Kretzmann offers the following as an introduction to this section of scripture: "Having shown the transitoriness, the superfluity, and the danger of possessing and, more still, of striving after great earthly possessions, St. Paul, by way of contrast, now shows the glory of spiritual possessions, as an incentive to [Timothy] to make every effort toward their attainment. "Paul refers to Timothy as a "man of God." This is a term used again in 2 Timothy in reference to scripture:

**2Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

What does it mean to be a "man of God?"

What are the expectations of such a person?

What are Paul's instructions to timothy in verse 11?

What are we to flee?

What are we to pursue?

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, we see this again:

**Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

Paul's instructions to Timothy instruct him to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. In Galatians he describes the "fruit of the spirit" as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

How do we pursue these things?

What is it we are actually pursuing?

How is the pursuit related to the fruits?

**(12) Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**

What does it mean to fight the good fight of faith?

How are we to fight that fight?

How do we take hold of eternal life?

Paul uses somewhat aggressive language regarding the attainment of faith and eternal life in terms of a fight or struggle. Why do you think he does that?

**1Pe 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

**Eph 6:10-13 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.**

Human nature has been delivered into slavery and is held captive by the devil [Colossians 1:13]. Apology of the Augsburg Confession (Article II on Original Sin)

**Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,**

What is Paul referring to when he says in verse 12 “you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses?”

How does this apply to us?

How do verses 11 and 12 tie together?