

Giving It Away

Living the Liturgical Year

I Timothy 6:11-19

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

11 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, 19 thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

REFLECTION

This intensely personal and instructive passage is written by Paul to Timothy. Paul, having learned about issues Timothy is having in Ephesus, encourages him in leading and loving the community there. **Think of a difficult time in your life when you were encouraged by a friend or mentor. Why do you think there is such power in encouragement, especially when based in love and prayer?**

Paul lays out these key points of leadership for Timothy in verses 12-14. **Think on these in your own life. What is working for you, and what might be missing?**

- 1) Stay connected to scripture, believe the truth of the gospel, and teach it.
- 2) Lead by exercising personal integrity. Live out your preaching as an example to others.

To help build Timothy's endurance, Paul encourages him to flee evil and turn to six specific virtues (verse 11). **What unhealthy habits, ideas, poor doctrine, controversy, or other evil most frequently muddles your faith? Which of the six virtues (verse 11) comes easiest to you? Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. How might you nurture each?**

In spite of life's trials, we are assured a triumphant conclusion – though life in the middle is difficult. Living in the “already” but “not yet” can motivate our service and giving. **As you consider your own service, how might God be calling you to work for his new world in the present, so that an individual or group of people might flourish? Who is encouraging you, and who are you being called to encourage this week?**