“Take Hold of the Eternal Life”

**Intro:** Having versed Timothy in the dangers, characteristics, affections and morals of false teachers and his _______ to silence them, Paul now presses upon him the importance of his own life, that he himself would ___ a true man ___ _________.

A. As the people of God we here learn how we are to live. He we learn that we must by faith in Christ know His truth, defend His truth, and be conformed to ______ _____________. Let us here receive the exhortation of Romans 12:1-2, “I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but ______ ____________________________ by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

I. As Timothy was a man of God so are _____ the people ___ ________, and our life is to be markedly different from the people of the world and especially from false teachers.

A. As the people of God we are to live our lives steadfastly ________________ from the things of this world. In this we must have no flexibility. We must live our days ___________________ the things false teachers lust after.

B. As the people of God we are to live in ________________ pursuit of God, which is to _______________ the virtue that comes from God.

1. Righteousness. We are to pursue right ________________, speaking that which pleases God, acting in accordance to His will, loving what He loves, cherishing what He cherishes, _______ Himself being our ________________ for right living.

2. Godliness. We are to possess an inner ________________ so righteous behavior will flow from an _________ conformity to God.

3. ________. One pursues faith as they do all virtue that is found in God: by giving themselves to the Word of God while believing God at His Word.

4. Love. This is ____________: the love of the will toward God and others, shown ________________ for their highest good, even at great cost to self.

5. Perseverance. Beloved, we are to put our hand to the plow and not look back! As believers we are to steadfastly stand through trial and persecution, and having done all, to stand. We are to be ________________ unto the _______ so we might hear those long sought after words; “Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord!”

6. Gentleness. This speaks of ________________ and meekness which is expressed toward God and man.
C. As the people of God we are to live our lives by continuing to “fight the good ________
   ________”.

1. In contrast to the false teachers who spend all their energies wrangling over
   controversial questions and the meaning of words, advocating a doctrine different than
   the sound doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ, we must put off their foolishness and
   contend for that which is beneficial to the well-being of the church and the glory of God.
   We must put off wrangling over controversial questions and word-battles and ______
   ______ what is beneficial, advocating the sound doctrine of our Lord Jesus ________,
   which results in godliness. This is our calling as the people of God.

D. As the people of God let us ________ firmly onto the eternal things of God, having
   apprehended ________________ life.

   1. And this is eternal life: ________ ________, the only true God, and Jesus
      Christ whom the Father sent!

   2. “The man of God, aware of God’s effectual call to eternal salvation and his own public
      profession of faith in response that call, maintains an ________________
      ___________________. He does not engage in the petty, meaningless battles of this
      world, but focuses on eternal things. He lives above the mundane and trivial matters of
      the passing world. He is consumed with what will never pass away – God’s Word and
      the souls of men.” (John MacArthur)

Closing: In the fight against false teachers it is easy to become so engrossed that we neglect our life,
forgetting to ________ ______ ______ called us to. The Puritan John Flavel wrote, “Brethren, it is
easier to declaim against a thousand sins of others, than to mortify one sin in ourselves.”

And the Apostle Paul wrote, 1 Cor 9:24-27, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but
only one receives the ________? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 And everyone who
competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable
wreath, but we an _______perishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such
a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have
preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.”

Christ calls us today to buffet ourselves and rather than being enslaved to temporal passions as are
false teachers we are to be the slave of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we have eternal life. Then, in
having ministered to others, we will be found ready for the Day of the Lord’s return and faith will
become sight. Let us die to self and ________ ______ ________!

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