Healthy Churches

**Avoid Worldliness**

They persevere in the battle against worldliness

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)

*11 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. 13I charge you 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, 14 to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*15 which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (ESV)*

***Action words***

“flee”

“pursue”

“fight”

“take hold”

“keep”

***2 Timothy 4:10***

*“For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.”*

*Resist worldly temptations* (1 Tim 6:11-12)

* Flee temptation zones (v. 11a)
* Pursue virtues that counter worldliness (v. 11b)

“Righteousness” = standards of right and wrong

“Godliness” = personal character

“Faith” = trust in God

“Love” = caring and sacrificial treatment towards others

“Steadfastness” = consistency under pressure

“Gentleness” is manner of treating people

* Fight for truth (v. 12a)

***2 Timothy 4:7***

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

* Hold on in the fight against worldliness (v. 12b)

“There is only one thing I know I can do well. I cannot lead, but I can truthfully say that I am able to hang on. It may arise from natural stubbornness, but I know that popular religious movements which, despite their lack of scriptural support, carry away so many good people, leave me entirely unaffected. I believe that I can set my teeth and hold on, but that is all I am good for.”

**Kenneth McRae**, 19th century Scottish pastor

*Persevere in godliness* (1 Tim 6:13-16)

***2 Timothy 1:5***

*“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”*

***Philippians 2:19-20***

*19I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.*

***2 Timothy 1:7***

*“for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”*

***1 Corinthians 16:10-11***

*10When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. 11So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.*

* Persevere because God gives and sustains life (v. 13a)
* Persevere because Christ persevered (v. 13b)
* Persevere because Christ will return and reward (v. 14)
* Persevere because God is sovereignly in control (vs. 15-16)