

WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

from Johnny Hunt

THE CHALLENGE TO BE FAITHFUL

PART ONE

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:11-12

I. INTRO

- Can you possibly think of a greater designation which speaks of spiritual characteristics than to be called a **man of God**? Listen to the sweetness and strength of these words: "My Dad is a **man of God**."
- An encouraging statement is found in these words, "**God does not call the equipped; God equips the called.**" This passage helps us to clearly see what the **man of God** looks like.
- The Apostle Paul realized that lots of forces attempt to pull down our men, therefore, with passion and encouragement he paints the portrait of the **man of God**. One very helpful textual approach is that of contrasting the **man of God** with the one who has his affections, attention, and aim on the world only. This text concerns itself with the private and public life of our men. If these scriptural admonitions are embraced and obeyed, it would assure Timothy (the man of God) success in his life's causes and ministries.
- A great passage to launch this message on is **2 Timothy 3:16-17**.

II. WHAT THE MAN OF GOD AVOIDS | VERSE 11

A. WHO

- "**but you**"—sharply contrasts Timothy with the false teachers of the preceding verses.
- You can't miss the intensity of Paul's appeal. The "**man of God**" realizes there are certain things to be avoided at all costs.

THE TRILOGY OF MAN'S STRUGGLES

- **Pride—Ego—Paul's "thorn in the flesh"** helped him deal with his pride (**1 Timothy 6:4**).
- **Greed—Money—Covetousness (Idolatry)** (**1 Timothy 6:5, 9-10, 17**).
- **Lust—Sex** (**1 Corinthians 6:18**).
- "**O man of God**"—one who believes on Him, belongs to Him.
- A man of God also **behaves** like Him. This title is indicative of a mature Christian. It's only used in the New Testament.

B. WHAT

- "**flee these things**"—word from which we derive fugitive; present tense, emotionally flee. We should flee anything that hinders the progress or lowers the standard of the life we are to pursue.
- In **1 Timothy 6:5**, "**withdraw yourself**"—we should turn our backs and run away from anything that is calculated to hinder the Christian experience.
- **NOTE:** Paul carefully avoided any appearance of loving money. In his farewell address to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:33-35, he reminded them:
 - "**I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**"
- Why do men get in trouble? By not taking God's Word and warnings seriously.
- **NOTE: 1 Timothy 6:9-10, 17**
- **QUESTION:** If we flee, where do we run to?
- **ANSWER: Proverbs 18:10, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe."**