

# DISCUSSION NOTES

**DECEMBER 8, 2019**

*Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.*

## LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:11-21. Make 5-7 observations. Identify words or phrases that are repeated? What strong verbs are present? What commands are given? What emotions are present?
2. In verse 11, Paul points out that we need to flee some things and pursue other things. What things are we supposed to run away from? What things are we supposed to run toward? What truth does this communicate about we grow spiritually?
3. How does our conversion and confession of faith in our baptism serve as a beginning marker or signpost that sets the trajectory of the rest of our lives?
4. Paul says that those of us in the church are to keep up the good fight until Jesus returns — how does Jesus' return serve as a final marker or signpost for the goal or culmination of our struggle and fight?
5. Verse 13 mentions Jesus' confession before Pilate. Read Mark 15:2-5 and John 18:37-38 to see this interaction. How does the repetition of the phrase "made the good confession" point us to a lesson he wants us to understand from Jesus' example?
6. Verses 17-19 provide more teaching about money in this chapter. Answer the following questions about these verses:
  - Does he make any judgment about the rich, either good or bad?
  - What two things are the rich to be warned against?
  - What three things are the rich to be encouraged to do?
  - What motivation is offered for faithfulness in this area of life?

## LIVING IT OUT

7. Do you relate to the athletic imagery Paul uses about our fighting the good fight of the faith? What implications can we draw from the idea that spiritual growth is a struggle in which we have to strive? What should you do when you do not feel like obeying and pursuing God?
8. When you consider the willful vulnerability and weakness of Jesus when he made his confession before Pilate and faced his own death, how does it stir your mind and heart to know that he is now victorious, that he now lives, and that he will return to reign as King over all?

How can this encourage you about your own current vulnerability and weakness in this life? What might Jesus' example say about your future?

9. Have you ever considered the idea of heavenly rewards before? How does the Bible use Jesus' return and our eternal rewards to motivate our daily living (verses 14-19)?

[For further study, consider the following verses which speak to our reward and eternity: Luke 6:35, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Romans 14:10-12, Ephesians 6:8, Hebrews 11:26, 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10, Colossians 3:23-24, 2 Timothy 2:5, 2 Timothy 2:12, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, Galatians 6:9-10, Luke 14:13-14, Luke 6:23.]

10. What is one specific way you can *set your hope on God* and live out the call to “do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for [yourself] as a good foundation for the future, so that [you] may take hold of that which is truly life”?
11. What is one thing from this study that you want to remember and apply to your own life this week?