

**Armagh Baptist Church – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010**  
**The Life and Times of Timothy 15**  
**1Timothy 6:11-21**  
**'The Making of a Man of God'**

**Introduction**

During the course of this series on “The Life and Times of Timothy”, some of the messages have been particularly relevant to young people:

(i) In the very first one we saw that Timothy was about 16 yrs old when he got saved. And that he was only about 18 years old whenever Paul took him with him on his first experience of working with a team of missionaries. I challenged our young people that morning to seriously consider the idea of serving the Lord on Summer Evangelism Teams or other forms of short term mission service. Some have already gone this summer, and some are still to go, others may be thinking of it in the future. We want to encourage our young people to make themselves available to the Lord during their teenage years.

(ii) Then around the middle of the series we looked at 1 Timothy 4:12,  
*“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.”*

That was said by Paul to Timothy as he took up the pastorate of the Church in Ephesus when he was about 35 years old. Even then he was still being looked down on because he was relatively young. But Paul said don't let that put you off: concentrate on setting a good example of what a Christian should be, and that will soon silence all their criticisms about your age.

Young people, God's Word calls you to begin to set an example now of what a Christian is. You may be young, but there is always somebody younger coming after you, looking up to you as a role model - Don't let them down, or lead them astray! If you are in your late teens / early twenties be good role models for those coming after you.

(iii) Now this morning, as we finish this series in 1 Timothy, I'm again going to speak especially to younger people. It will of course have something to say to all of us.

Today I want to speak on the subject: **“The Making of a Man of God.”** And straight away I hear the young people say: ‘What's that got to do with us?’ And I say, “Everything!”  
Q. “When do you think God begins to work in somebody's life, to make them a man or a woman of God?”  
- Nine times out of ten God begins to work on you when you're young.  
e.g. Moses growing up in Pharaoh's court in Egypt.

e.g. Joseph was in Egypt at the age of 17 in Potiphar's household.  
e.g. David as a shepherd boy around Bethlehem.

And here we have Timothy - saved at 16, called into Christian work at 18, pastoring churches by his early 30's, and now here in 1 Timothy 6:11, Paul calls this young man of 35, “A Man of God.”

I'm sure that gave Timothy great encouragement. To be told by his mentor Paul, that he was “A Man of God”. What greater compliment could anybody pay you, than to tell you that you're a “Man of God”?

“Would you like somebody to say that about you?” - That you're a Man or a Woman of God; that there's something about your life that stands out above the rest; that you're a godly young person.  
Is that your goal? Is that your desire? Is that one of your aims in life? –  
To become a man or a woman of God. I hope it is. I would like to think it is.

Don't try so hard to get on in this life, or to be successful in the things of this world, that your relationship with God just becomes an embarrassing side-issue to your life. Put your relationship with God first in your life, and then fit all the other things around that. And if those other things don't fit comfortably with your relationship with God, then let them go, let them fall by the wayside. Hold on to what's important, and let go of everything that stands in the way of your walk with God.

**The Making of A Man of God.**

I want you to notice four things in this passage, if you want to be a Man or a Woman of God.

1. **A MAN OF GOD HAS TO FLEE FROM CERTAIN THINGS. (v.11)**

*“But you, man of God, flee from all this!”*

All What? What things have we to flee from?

**(i) False doctrine (v.3)** – i.e. teaching that does not agree with the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ, or that is contrary to godly teaching. There is much of this around today. The only way that you will be able to discern the one from the other, the true from the false, is to get into God's Word yourself; to make time to read God's Word day by day yourself. Young people, I would like to encourage you to plan out your week so that you make it along to a Bible study so that you can be taught in the deeper truths of God's Word, as well as listening to what is said at Sunday Services. Young people - I want to put it to you that you need to see the Bible studies in the life of this church as for you as much as for anyone else. They are not just for the older people. Maybe you can't make it every week, but we will be

starting home groups once per month from September, so I would love to see you committing to one of them from September onwards. That's not too much to ask - after all they are only once a month! Come to the ones in the church as well on the other Wednesday nights if you can make it. You'd be very welcome! Plan it into your programme, and don't miss it unless you really have to. It's only a matter of getting into the habit of coming, and after a while you'll not find anything too difficult about it. I went to the Bible Studies and prayer meetings in my church when I was growing up from the age of 16 onwards – even during times of revision for exams! It's all about priorities...

Some of you are church members. When you joined as members you actually promised to be faithful at such meetings. Some of you are at an age now, and your circumstances are such that you have no excuse not to be there. It's for your good, so you can get a better grounding in God's Word, and be better able to discern what is true and what is false.

But as well as fleeing from false doctrine, Paul was telling Timothy to flee from

**(ii) The desire to get rich quick.** When he says in v.11 *"Flee from all this"* he's referring back to v.10 *"The love of money that is a root of all kinds of evil."* Now I know as you set out in life, and leave school, and head off to college to train or whatever, that you want to get a good job, or get into some career that you will enjoy and that will earn you money to live on, and there's nothing wrong with that.

But Paul's warning to us all is that we watch that we don't get eaten up with a desire to make more and more money, and to get more and more of the things of this world, so much so, that it takes us over, that we work every hour God sends to make all we can, but we never have the time to enjoy it, and worse still we have no time for God, or for His Work, for the life of our church, and for the task he has called us to of reaching out to a lost world all around us. Watch that one! But there are other things:-

**(iii) Flee from sexual immorality (1Cor.6:18-20)**

- That's an important one to watch out for. If you fall in that area it has consequences that you will have to deal with for the rest of your life.

**(iv) Flee from idolatry (1 Cor.10:14)**

- An Idol is anything that takes the place that God should have in your life.

**(v) Flee the evil desires of youth (2 Tim.2:22)**

- Perhaps this again means sexually. But look at the context in vs.23-24. It could mean Arguments and Quarrels – or always getting into fights! If you want to be a Man or a Woman of God, then these are the things you must flee from, or get away from.

e.g. Joseph had to flee from the attempts of Potiphar's wife to seduce him. e.g. Lot and his family. They were told to flee for their lives, from the destruction that God was about to bring on Sodom and Gomorrah. But Lot's wife looked back, hankering after what she was supposed to have left behind, and she turned into a pillar of salt. She is a warning to us all: Her love for the things she should have left behind, actually destroyed her! So a Man of God has to flee from certain things, but secondly...

**2. A MAN OF GOD HAS TO FOLLOW AFTER CERTAIN THINGS. (v.11b)**

Let's put it positively now. As well as fleeing from certain things, if you want to be a Man or a Woman of God, you have to pursue, or follow after certain things as well (v.11). Pursue, or Follow after:-

**(i) Righteousness and godliness.**

*"Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness."* (Matt.6:33)

- Not just putting God first in your life, but wanting to live your life in a way that is pleasing to God in every part. It's to do with your behaviour and your character. This is the only way people will be able to say of you, "You're a Man/ Woman of God"- when they see God's righteousness, when they see godliness in your life. Pursue it. Follow after it. Go for it! Strive after godliness, don't settle for anything less!

**(ii) Faith and Love**

These are 2 of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.

Are you growing in Faith? Is your faith getting stronger?

Are you exercising it? Are you doing anything to stretch it?

And what about your love? Your love for the Lord? For His Word?

For His Work? For His People? For the Lost?

*"They will know you are Christians by your love..."*

How much evidence is there of it in your life? Or in mine?

**(iii) Endurance and gentleness.**

The Christian life takes both - You've got to be tough, to **endure** the difficulties along the way as a Christian. It's not easy - It's a Battle. It's not a Sprint - It's a Marathon! It needs endurance - not a spurt of enthusiasm now and again. But a steady plod to see you home.

But as well as being tough to keep going, we need to be soft, to be **gentle**, as well. To not get so hardened by the difficulties that we lose our compassion, gentleness, care or love. That can happen so easily. The secret is to stay close to the Lord from day to day.

I said A Man of God has to be tough, and he does, because thirdly:-

## **2. A MAN OF GOD HAS TO FIGHT FOR CERTAIN THINGS. (v.12)**

*“Fight the good fight of the Faith”*

The Christian Life is a Fight, It's a Battle, It's a Struggle. Don't doubt that for one minute.

But what's wrong? Are you not tough enough for it? Are you not strong enough to be a Christian? I thought Christians were supposed to be the sissies? Not a bit of it! Christians have to be tough. Because the going often gets tough! And we have to keep battling on. Keep fighting through. And not give up! This phrase has both the soldier in the battle, and the athlete in the marathon, in mind.

There's a battle we have to keep on fighting, and there's a race we've got to keep on running. (See 2 Timothy 4:6-8) (cf. Hebrews 12:1-4).

The word for fight is *agonizomai*, from which we get agonize. So if you think your Christian life has been agony lately, now you know why - it can be!

But it says fight the good fight of “*The Faith*” - It's the Christian Faith we are to fight for; it's not each other; and it's not even the world we're to fight either. We are to contend for “The Faith.” This brings me to my last point:-

## **4. A MAN OF GOD HAS TO BE FAITHFUL TO CERTAIN THINGS. (v.20)**

“The Faith” is the Gospel. That's what we're to fight for, and that's what we've to be faithful to as well. That's why as well as telling Timothy to fight for ‘The Faith’ (v.12), he tells him to Guard what has been entrusted to his care. (v.20) You see the Gospel is a precious deposit that God gave to the Apostles in the New Testament, Paul then passed it on intact to Timothy, and he in turn was passing it on to the people in Ephesus. They have passed it on to the generations since and so it has come down to us.

(See 1 Tim 1:11, 1 Tim 6:20 & 2 Tim.2:2)

But the Gospel must not be tampered with, or changed, it must be guarded, it must be kept pure. We cannot add to it, and we must not take away from it, otherwise we empty it of its power. We must pass it on to the next generation in the same way as it was passed on to us. We have to be faithful in doing that. That means we *‘Turn away from godless chatter...’* v.20b-21.

## **CONCLUSION (v.21)**

The last thing any of us want to see is any of our young people wandering from the faith.

We long to see you growing up to be Men and Women of God. (v.11)

Some say you are the Church of Tomorrow, but you are already part of it Today! We all hope that this Church will be led by Men (and women) of God in the years to come. The question is, will you be counted among them?