

Flee, 6:11a

Walk This Way – 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Midweek – 4.24.19

Pre-Introduction:

- We come to 1 Timothy:
  - Paul (the mentor) is teaching and encouraging the young Timothy (the one being mentored)
    - I debated to call this series: “Mentored by Paul”
- Timothy has been entrusted to care for the Ephesian church
  - He was a young guy, needing encouragement and affirmation
  - We can identify with Timothy!
    - Are we living the right way?
    - What are we supposed to be doing now that we are saved?
    - How do we live with God’s people?
- And Paul answers this in the book:
  - He goes up against false teachers
  - And he tells Timothy how they should be acting
- But toward the end of 1 Timothy:
  - Paul goes into mentor mode and gives him 5 ways he can do what God has called him to do and be who God has called him to be:

1 Timothy 6:11-21

<sup>11</sup> But you, **flee** from these things, and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> **Fight** the good fight of the faith. **Take hold** of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses... **Guard** what has been entrusted to you.

- Flee (6:11a)
  - Pursue (6:11b)
  - Fight (6:12a)
  - Take Hold (6:12b-19)
  - Guard (6:20-21)
- And I think these 5 actions are encouragement to all of us;
    - So for the next 5 weeks, lets look at these 5 ways we can live more like Christ

Introduction: **FLEE**

1 Timothy 6:11a

<sup>11</sup> But you, **flee** from these things...

- What does it mean to flee?
  - Classic Horror Movie – walking into a dark house, basement, woods
    - It’s always dark
    - They hear a sound and investigate
  - What are you shouting? RUN!
- Shouldn’t we do the same to sin?

- Yet we walk in the dark and continue to be stupid
- Comes from the Greek = f-yoo-go (*feugo*)
  - Which means:
    - to move quickly from a point or area in order to avoid presumed danger or difficulty – ‘to run away, to flee, flight.’
- How are we able to flee sin?
  - We must be able to identify sin
  - We must desire to flee from sin
  - We must actually flee from sin

### **We Must Be Able to Identify Sin**

- How do you identify a horror house?
  - Look at the verses before

1 Timothy 6:3-10

<sup>3</sup>If anyone teaches **false doctrine** and **does not agree with the sound teaching** of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching that promotes godliness, <sup>4</sup>he is **conceited** and understands nothing, but has **an unhealthy interest in disputes and arguments** over words. From these come **envy, quarreling, slander, evil suspicions,** <sup>5</sup>**and constant disagreement** among people whose minds are **depraved** and **deprived of the truth**, who imagine that **godliness is a way to material gain.** <sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. <sup>8</sup>If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. <sup>9</sup>But those who **want to be rich fall into temptation**, a trap, and **many foolish** and **harmful desires**, which plunge people into **ruin** and **destruction.** <sup>10</sup>For **the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

- What does he say to flee from? SEE BOLD
- These are all things that Timothy is encouraged to flee from – and these are all things that we should flee from.
- Paul says this in other places as well:

1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee sexual immorality!

1 Corinthians 10:14

So then, my dear friends, flee from idolatry!

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee from youthful passions!

- The first step in fleeing is to be able to identify what you are fleeing from:
  - You are fleeing all forms of sin
  - What is sin?
    - Missing the mark – what is the mark? God!

- Anything that is not perfect is sin.
- The Bible gives us a lot of examples of what sin is:

Colossians 3:5-9

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.<sup>6</sup> Because of these, God's wrath is coming upon the disobedient,<sup>7</sup> and you once walked in these things when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup>But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices

Galatians 5:17-21

For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- In order to flee from sin – you have to what sin is!
  - To know what it is – we have to constantly be in God's Word

Hebrews 4:12-13

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.

- Why do we need to read the Bible?
  - Knowledge?
  - Obligation?
    - Because this is the only way we know what is Truth and what is not!
      - Daily saturation in the Word of God helps rightly identify all the ways we are falling short of the glory of God
- The same goes the other way:
  - The more distant we are from God's Word – the more blinded we are to where we fall short
- What does Satan want?
  - He wants you to stop identifying your sin as sin – he wants you to grow ok with it.
  - Or classify your sins
    - He wants your judgment to be impaired (go back and read the kinds of things in Galatians 5)
- When a character enters a horror house:
  - THEY HAVE BLIND JUDGEMENT
    - So will you – APART FROM THE WORD OF GOD

Jerry Bridges, *Pursuit of Holiness*

### **Question Formula: How to Know Right from Wrong**

**Question 1:** Is it helpful—physically, spiritually, and mentally?

*Everything is permissible for me’ – but not everything is beneficial (1 Cor. 6:12).*

**Question 2:** Does it bring me under its power?

*‘Everything is permissible for me’—but I will not be mastered by anything (1 Cor. 6:12).*

**Question 3:** Does it hurt others?

*Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to all into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall (1 Cor. 8:13).*

**Question 4:** Does it glorify God?

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).*

### **We Must Desire to Flee from Sin**

- So not only do we need identify our sin, we need to then desire to flee from it!
  - Go back to haunted house – recognize but still go in?
- Cain

Genesis 4:1-9

The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, “I have had a male child with the Lord’s help.”<sup>2</sup> She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground.<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain presented some of the land’s produce as an offering to the Lord.<sup>4</sup> And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,<sup>5</sup> but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent?<sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, won’t you be accepted? **But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.**”

<sup>8</sup> Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

- Read verse 7 again
  - Even when Cain knew the sin before Him (because the Lord told him!)
    - Cain still killed his brother!
- Notice what the Lord says about sin:
  - IT’S DESIRE IS FOR YOU
- But though sin desires us – we must not desire it!
  - It’s one thing to know your sin, it’s an entirely different thing to have no desire to act on it
    - But here’s where we can get messed up
      - If I tell you:

- Identify your sin and stop wanting to sin – I am doing you a disservice
- Have you heard of the Marshmallow test?
  - Explain – 2-4 year olds
    - Test on Instant gratification
    - Given marshmallow – told if they wait 15, they could have another
  - Of the 600 – only a third of those kids were able to wait!
- Even when we know the reward of abstaining – we want what we want now
  - Sin has a way of desiring you – making you miss out on what God has for you
    - But as I said earlier – I am doing you a disservice if all I tell you is to do better
      - Our nature says that’s not possible in our own strength
      - We Need Help
- You have to want to NOT sin
  - But this can happen only through Jesus – he is the one who transforms our desires!

#### 2 Corinthians 3:18

We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- In order to not desire sin – we must be continually transformed into the image of Jesus!
  - How are we transformed? SALVATION

#### 2 Corinthians 5:17

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

#### Romans 6:6-11

<sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, <sup>7</sup>since a person who has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, <sup>9</sup>because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died, he died to sin once for all time; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- The Gospel is not a call to die to your sin by your own doing
  - It is a call to die to your sin by CHRIST’S DOING!
    - When we are exposed to the horrendous nature of our soul – the call is not to try harder
      - THE CALL IS TO GIVE UP
    - CRY OUT - I surrender! Jesus do this for me!
      - But we know that this is the beginning – now we live for Christ’s glory shining through us
- And doing this transforms our hearts – for we then desire what is contrary to the flesh
  - We desire to please the Lord – instead of rebel

- You hear people say – I want to be good
  - But do they really?
    - Or do they want to be some self-seeking form of good that actually is advantageous for their lifestyle?
- When we say I want to be good – we must say that in conjunction with a desire to have a right relationship with God
  - That can only come through Jesus!
- So really, to flee from sin – begins by understanding your sin and believing that our desire for something other than that sin only comes from Christ
  - Then, as believers:

### **We Must Actually Flee from Sin**

- Think back to the scary movie:
  - Oh I see that basement is dark and I don't have a flashlight
  - Oh I don't want to get eaten by a killer teddy bear
  - But, let's try this anyway
- If we see the sin – want to flee – but don't actually flee – THAT'S NOT FLEEING!

James 1:14-15

Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

- Doesn't that sound exactly like a horror movie?
  - We must obey by running!
- There's a famous phrase:
  - "Be killing sin, or it will be killing you."

Romans 8:13

If you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

- Sin feeds on you – when we flee, sin starves.
  - It grows as big and as fast as you feed it
  - It shrinks and shrivels the longer you are away
- If sin were the haunted house:
  - I see it is haunted and creepy
  - I don't want to go in there
    - But we don't run away, instead – we get curious
      - We look in the windows
      - We put our ear to the door
      - We shout to see if anything will come out
- If we let sin hang around – it will consume us
  - How do we break from this?

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

- As you are a believer, how are you continually transformed?
  - Renewing your mind:
    - The Word
      - as mentioned earlier
      - Shows us our sin, but then corrects us!
    - Prayer

Mark 14:37-38

<sup>37</sup> Then he came and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn’t you stay awake one hour? <sup>38</sup> Stay awake and pray so that you won’t enter into temptation.<sup>[1]</sup> The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

- Understand the Consequences of sin

Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies for Satan’s Devices*

Device 1: to present the bait and hide the hook; to present the golden cup and hide the poison, to present the sweet, the pleasure, and the profit that may flow in upon the soul by yielding to sin, and by hiding from the soul the wrath and misery that will certainly follow the committing of sin... Here is the bait, the sweet, the pleasure, the profit. Oh, but he hides the hook, - the shame, the wrath, and the loss that would certainly follow.

- To renew our mind and be transformed in His glory, is to continually fix our eyes on the author and perfecter of our faith!
  - Not the satanic clown who masquerades as an angel of light.
- In the same way we change our desires, we change our pattern of living
- True changes in desire will result in changes of lifestyle
  - So – the same way you change your desire is the way you are able to flee sin:
    - Believe the Lord’s call on your life to be holy
    - Believe that Jesus has made you righteous before him
    - Believe that is only by the Spirit’s power that you can break from your flesh’s desire
    - Believe that it is only through God’s Word that he will show us our sin and

Conclusion:

- How do you respond?
  - Identify your sin, ask the Lord to change your desires, and flee from the sin
  - WE ALL HAVE SIN THAT NEEDS TO RUN THROUGH THIS PROCESS
    - What is the Lord calling you to run from?
- To flee isn’t weakness, but it is only part of the equation:
  - You may be saying:
    - But I thought we were given the armor of God in Ephesians 6?
    - Or

James 4:7

Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- But the idea of fleeing and resisting the enemy are not mutually exclusive – we must do both!
  - Fleeing is not weakness
    - Instead fleeing is often paired with this idea of pursuing

1 Timothy 6:11

<sup>11</sup> But you, **flee** from these things, and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

- We must turn away from sin – yes!
  - And then our aim is to pursue the things of God
    - Come back next week to be encouraged in your pursuit.