

1 Timothy 6:12b-19 – Take Hold Midweek: Walk This Way

1 Timothy 6:12b-19

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. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ God will bring this about in his own time. He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen. ¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

Pre-Introduction:

- Series of sanctification: What happens after you are saved?
 - Paul is encouraging Timothy – Mentor to Mentee
 - I'm not here – so here's some tips on how to live
 - Not just self-help
 - But a Christ-centered life that desires to look more like Jesus
 - How:
- Flee (6:11a)
 - Flee from Sin!
- Pursue (6:11b)
 - But not aimless fleeing – purposed on: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.
- Fight (6:12a)
 - Fight the Good fight of the Faith – Why fight? Because you love Christ!
- Tonight: Take Hold (6:12b-19)

Introduction:

- Monkey Trap
 - Hole with a treat
 - Big enough to put your hand in but too small when they have a fist
- Take that concept
 - Now set something glamorous just beyond your reach
 - All you have to do – let go of the stuff in the hole and run to the other

Outline:

- Take Hold of the Eternal Christ
- Release Your Grip on the Temporary World

Take Hold of the Eternal Christ

• What does it mean to “take hold?”

1 Timothy 6:12b

...Take hold of eternal life to which you were called...

- Take hold = grasp, arrest
 - experience, undergo
 - Mario on Nintendo vs Virtual Reality
 - Experience the game vs play the game
- This is what this word means
 - To take what you’ve been witnessing and grab it and experience it!

• “Take Hold” of what?

1 Timothy 6:12b

...Take hold of eternal life to which you were called...

- Take Hold, experience, undergo, grasp, arrest = eternal life!
 - Jesus says, John 14: I am the way, the truth and the life – no one comes to the Father except through me!
 - To experience eternal life is to experience the reign and rule of Christ in your life - NOW
 - So the what (eternal life) quickly becomes a who (Jesus Christ)
 - Take hold of Jesus
 - Who is this Jesus?

1 Timothy 6:12b-16

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. ¹³In the presence of God, **who gives life to all**, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴to keep this command without fault or failure **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**. ¹⁵**God will bring this about in his own time**. He is the **blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords**, ¹⁶who **alone is immortal** and **who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see**...to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

- It’s what – It’s Who:
- Life Giver (verse 13)
 - We experience and grab the one who gives life!
 - What is sin? When we experience and grab death and destruction.
 - This is your brain on sin, this is your brain on life!
- Faithful One (verse 14-15)
 - We experience and grab the only one who is faithful!
 - How has God been faithful in the Bible? EXAMPLE
 - That same God!
 - How has God been faithful in your life?
 - In my life – God has been faithful every step of the way

- This same God!
- Why would God not continue to be faithful?
 - God has called us to be faithful in the little things and the big things
 - Why?
 - Because he is faithful in both
 - As he tarries and waits, more come to Him

1 Timothy 1:17

¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Blessed and Only Sovereign, King of Kings, Lord of Lords (verse 15)
 - We are to grab and experience this King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!
 - The all knowing and all powerful
 - King of Kings and Lord of Lords – no one is higher
 - In fact, only communicates – incomparable and no one like him
 - Everyone is lower than him
 - Have you ever met a celebrity? Or someone really important?
 - We grab and experience this one who is the highest
- Immortal
 - We are to grab and experience the immortal one!
 - This word – Thanatos = death
 - Athanasia = opposite of death
 - We get to take hold of the only one who is immune to decay and destruction
 - Not only knows no death – is offering you a way out of your own!
- Unapproachable Light
 - We grab and experience the light where:
 - To quote 1 John – In him there is no darkness at all
- We have a call as believers to take hold, grab and experience this Eternal Christ!
 - How?

• How do we “take hold of this Eternal Christ?”

1 Timothy 6:12b-16

... 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.** ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴ **to keep this command without fault or failure** until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ God will bring this about in his own time. He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, **to him be honor and eternal power.** Amen.

- Confess Him as Who He is (verses 12-13)
 - Paul looked at Timothy and says: I know what you confessed! Take hold of it!

- The first step in order to take hold of him is to confess him as: WHAT WE JUST WENT OVER
 - But these aren't just Paul's words – Paul says this is the same testimony Jesus gave about himself (v.13)
- What is confession?
 - Confession of sin
 - You can't take hold of what you desire in your own attempt
 - Pursuing eternal life – The fountain of youth
 - Eternity is written on our hearts
 - We have to admit that our attempt is futile
 - We have to admit that we can't get it
 - Confession of faith
 - The other side of confession is then in the object we submit to
 - We believe that Jesus is the only one who holds eternal life
 - He died, was buried and was resurrected on the third day
 - Conquering sin and death and doing something we couldn't
 - In confession – we admit we can't do it and we admit who can
- Keep this command without Fault or Failure (verse 14)
 - Later: Give Him Honor and Eternal Power
 - Timothy was to flee from unrighteousness and pursue the fullness of the Christian life.
 - He was to devote himself to growing intimacy with Christ, to compassionate relationships with others, and unwavering guardianship of truth as found in Scripture.
 - The full spectrum of life is to be lived under the reign of Christ, and it is to be done with consistency so that no sin interferes with such a life.
 - So to take hold is to:
 - Confess
 - Then live as Christ is Lord of your life
 - BOTH
 - Christ didn't simply save you from Hell
 - He saved you to an eternal life with Him as King
 - A life that is dedicated in allegiance to this King
 - Does this mean we have to be perfect or we're out?
 - No! But that doesn't change the goal
 - As we live in mercy and grace – our goal never changes
 - For every step without fault and failure
 - Is a step toward Christ – which is what a life looks like that takes hold and experiences this Christ!
 - TRANSITION: But the problem is: You have to let go first.

Release Your Grip on the Temporary World

• Release your Grip by changing your Attitude

1 Timothy 6:17

¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy.

- Have you ever associated being rich and arrogance?
 - Earlier: clarify – The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil
 - Notice: not money
 - But why – the love of money?
 - Why – not to be arrogant?
 - Think of what happens when you place your security on finances:
 - The more we have – the easier it is to shift our success onto ourselves
 - Look what I did!
 - Mr. Biting – Beau, the biggest problem America faces is that they don't need God – they don't even realize their need for God.
- In our opulence is great arrogance – for we become the one who supplies our needs
 - But we forget the one who is behind every blessing!
- He is the source of all of our blessings:
 - Think of a fireplace – the purpose: to be warm
 - We throw logs on the fire and the larger the fire, the warmer we are – and we boast in our ability to make the fire!
 - But what we don't realize is that on the other side of the fireplace is God who has bellows – giving it the necessary oxygen to rage and roar
 - What happens when you take out airflow?
 - The fire stops
 - But we are so focused on the heat from the fire and our ability to throw more logs on that we praise ourselves
 - Forgetting that the very thing a fire needs is oxygen, and without it – it burns out.
- In our abundance – we forget that God is the one behind it, making it rage
 - We must learn to release our grip on this world by changing our attitude:
 - FROM Arrogance
 - TO Thankfulness and Praise
 - An unthankful heart has far too tight of a grip on stuff that is temporary.
 - Release your grip and take hold and experience the source of your wealth

• Release your Grip by changing your Actions

1 Timothy 6:18

¹⁸ Instruct them to do what is good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share...

- Not only do we need an attitude of thankfulness

- We need actions that flow from that thankfulness
- 2 Corinthians 8-9
 - Paul explains that our giving must flow from the grace we have been given:
 - If we recognize the gift of grace – and we give thanks for the grace – then we act on that grace
- What if I told you that you have been given what you have been given so that you can be a conduit by which God gives to other people?
 - This is what Paul is saying here and elsewhere!
 - When you grip the world and your stuff too tightly – you can't take hold of Christ
 - When you hoard your stuff
 - Both literally
 - And purely selfish spending
 - Your grip on the world is too tight because you have forgotten why you were given your wealth in the first place!
 - Remember what Jesus says: You cannot serve two masters. You cannot love both God and money.
 - The best way to take hold of Christ is to live as though your money and wealth is not your own
 - And God blesses this!
 - This talk about money – may seem out of left field
 - BUT HOW WE VIEW OUR WEALTH IS AN INDICATOR OF HOW TIGHTLY WE ARE GRIPPING THE WORLD

1 Timothy 6:3-10

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

- Loosen your grip on your stuff by changing your actions:
 - Be generous, be willing to share and commit to doing good works
 - Release your grip and take hold and experience Jesus as the one who modeled generosity and grace
- Release your Grip by changing your Aspirations

1 Timothy 6:19

¹⁹storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of what is truly life.

- Doesn't this sound exactly like Jesus?

Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹“Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Paul is telling him: loosen your grip on this life and take hold to the next
 - This life is temporary – the next one is eternal
 - And if you take hold of that now
 - You can begin to experience (verse 19)
 - TRUE LIFE
 - This is living eschatologically
 - Living with the end in mind
- Isn't that what we want?
 - True life – life that is exactly the way it was intended?
 - But instead we settle
- Release your grip and take hold and experience TRUE LIFE in Jesus

Conclusion:

- Remember the monkey at the beginning:
 - The World has a hold on you because you won't let go of it!
 - Release your grip by changing your attitude, your actions and your aspirations
 - Take hold of the eternal Christ by confessing Him as Lord and living in a way that honors and glorifies him.

AFTER PRAYER:

- Last Midweek of the Spring next week!
 - Guard what has been entrusted to you!
 - Using this opportunity to recalibrate and relaunch in the Fall
 - Schedule will coincide with all the other Wednesday night activities
 - Additionally – We are using it as an opportunity to figure out how we can further equip our people in different ways
 - Text: MIDWEEK to 77978
 - For updates