

Discussion Guide: 1 Timothy 6:11-21

1. In vv 11-13, note that Paul uses several imperative commands (flee, pursue, fight, take hold) as he exhorts Timothy. While the message of grace is central to the gospel, it is not mutually exclusive with effort. Take some time to discuss the relationship between the grace of the gospel (what Jesus has done for us) and the imperatives of the gospel (what we must do in light of what He has done).

—How can putting the imperatives before the grace of the gospel lead to legalism?

—How can forgetting the imperatives and only talking about grace lead to licentiousness?

2. In vv14-16, Paul turns his attention to the return of Christ and breaks out in a hymn of praise about Jesus. Paul calls for Timothy and the church to live in light of the soon return of Jesus, with a posture oriented towards heaven. He also notes that all this will happen according to God's timing.

—Discuss how remembering that all things happen according to God's timing is so important for a Christian.

—It seems Paul lived in expectation of Jesus' return at anytime. Do we live like this? What might change in our lives if we did?

3. In vv. 17-19, Paul exhorts the rich to not put their hope in anything but God. While most of us may not consider ourselves rich, in reality, compared to most of the world, we are.

—Discuss things we may be tempted to put our hope in besides just money.

—Paul says that our richness should give us all the more reason for generosity. Discuss the obvious contrast between Paul's view of possessions and our culture's view of possessions.