
WORSHIP AS WAR

1 TIMOTHY 6:15-16



As we come to the end of 1 Timothy, I'm sure we all identify a lot more with timid Timothy, don't we? We feel his fear as we face our own high callings and scary challenges. We sympathize with him and say, "I feel more like a timid Timothy than a powerful Paul."

However, we're also encouraged by the number of tools, weapons, strategies, and tactics we've learned to help us answer our callings and overcome our challenges. Our confidence is strengthening and our cowardice is weakening.

We want to be gallant, gutsy, and gritty in the Lord's service. But we need one last boost. We need another super-shot of tough tenacity. That's what Paul gives Timothy and us in these closing verses of 1 Timothy. What does Paul use? Paul encourages us in the Lord with the character of God and the worship of God.

- **THE CHARACTER OF GOD ENCOURAGES US**
- **THE WORSHIP OF GOD ENCOURAGES US**

LEARNING

THE CHARACTER OF GOD ENCOURAGES US

God is **the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords** (15). Fight because God is the blessed and only Sovereign and therefore the outcome is certain. God is invincible and therefore this is not a kamikaze mission.

God **alone has immortality** (16). Death cannot touch him, he will outlast and outlive all opposition. God is immortal and therefore he can give immortality to those who sacrifice their mortality in his service.

God **dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see** (16). The world is a dark place, but look and see God's beautiful holiness and holy beauty. In an imperfect world keep your eyes on the immaculate God.

Yes you have a great calling and a great challenge but the invincible, immortal, immaculate God is greater than them all.

**DWELL IN GOD'S LIGHT BY FAITH AND YOU CAN
DWELL IN THE DARK WORLD WITH COURAGE.**

"So, all I need is better theology?" No, you also need better worship.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD ENCOURAGES US

Paul's theology always leads him to worship. He can't help himself. As he meditates on God's character and describes God to Timothy, his heart is warmed, his spirit is stirred, his emotions are raised, and he eventually bursts forth with **To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen** (16).

Everything Paul has written in the past six chapters has been about getting Timothy to him, the encouraging experience of worshipping God. Theology and practice are the fuel for worship but worship is the fire. It burns up fear, cowardice, and caution. It ignites spiritual graces, gifts, and godliness. It energizes the soul and shines through the life of the worshipper. It brings God to the soul and the soul to God. **To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen** (16). We worship our way to war.

WORSHIP IS NOT TO HELP US FEEL GOOD,
IT'S TO HELP US FIGHT FOR GOOD.

LOVING

This is why we always move from learning the Bible to loving the Bible and the God of the Bible. Learning is great, but loving is greater. We must get from head to heart. Learning is the way to loving but loving is a far greater power than learning. We can't bypass learning and go straight to loving, but neither can we stop at learning. Indeed, the more we love, the more we will want to learn. It's a virtuous circle. Learning gives us the weapons of spiritual warfare, but loving gives us the courage to actually fight with them. Focus less on worship wars and more on worship as war.

LIVING

Let's encourage ourselves in the Lord with the character of God and the worship of God and then we'll have not only the weapons but the courage to use them.
