**The Right Spiritual Focus (1 Timothy 6:6-14)**

 God calls us to a right spiritual focus: therefore, let us put aside the temporary and live for the eternal.

 Greetings to you all, dear brothers and sisters, as we finish out this season of Lent with today’s foundational spiritual instructions: The Apostle Paul was instructing his student, Timothy, about his calling. The Apostle remembered how Timothy’s family also had faith, and he was encouraged by the young leader’s testimony. He was hoping that Timothy had not strayed from the lifestyle that was based on his declaration of faith (on the day he was commissioned for ministry). Paul was advising him something that we too, today, need to hear one more time. If there was one theme that stood out in this passage, it was the idea of focus. Spiritual focus is a leading factor in the way spiritual life unfolds and is reflected. Therefore, it is important to remember today’s teaching as an impetus to self-examine. Again, God calls us to a right spiritual focus: therefore, let us put aside the temporary and live for the eternal. Let us speak, then about this set of instructions…

 Our spiritual life is dependent upon our focus – either it’s going to be a shallow faith-walk because of our worldly views, or it’ll be deeper because of our Christ-centered life. According to the Apostle, certain circumstances make it easier to develop our spiritual life.

Now, Timothy was surrounded by many temptations and pressures; many were muddying the atmosphere of the church with their wrongheaded focus. For the Apostle Paul, the primary reason for pursuing godliness and contentment with little was the fleeting and transient nature of this physical life. He says, “If we have food and clothing, then let us be content with those.” In other words, the life-pursuit of anything more than that is unnecessary and has the potential to endanger the faith-journey of the believer. He says clearly that the love of money has already caused many to stray from the faith. However, it is not only important to know what it wrong; rather, Timothy’s instructions were also practical. He was to stay away from those who were money lovers or materialists. Instead of them, he was to focus on rendering justice, caring for his spiritual life, and his mission centered on love and characterized by humility and meekness.

A certain French Marquis was raised to his grand and exalted state from very humble surroundings. He had been a shepherd in his earlier days, and so, in his palace, he had one room known as `the shepherd's room'. In that room were reproductions of hills and valleys and running streams and rocks and sheepfolds. Here there were the staff he had carried and the clothes he had worn as a young man when herding his sheep. When asked one day the meaning of this, he replied, `If ever my heart is tempted to haughtiness and pride, I go into that room and remind myself of what I once was.'

Today, God is calling us to return to the purity and simplicity of our Christian spirituality. Our worldly and human success stories are not as important as our spiritual progress and maturity in Godly love. Every relationship that is reconciled in the love of God is a valuable victory for us. Each trial which we endure patiently and with a Christian attitude becomes a means of strengthening our spirits (in the Lord). Every sacrificial service we render to others brings us closer to Him who washed our feet on that fateful Thursday night before He was crucified, since we are the descendants of the Apostles through faith. Let us not be deceived by the world’s material wealth; all of us came with nothing into this world, and we will only get out with our faith-life. Therefore, let us make a decision to focus on our faith-life instead of considering it only one part of our entire life. Let us make our entire life a spiritual one. Let us give our whole life to Jesus and let us not keep from Him a piece for ourselves, thinking that we can belong to Him with a divided heart. May God truly be our God through Jesus, and may we understand His instructions clearly by always asking for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

My dear brother and sister - choose what is Christian. Far be it from you to allow money to shackle you and become your idol. Our spiritual life is dependent upon our focus – either it’s going to be a shallow faith-walk because of our worldly views, or it’ll be deeper because of our Christ-centered life. God calls us to a right spiritual focus: therefore, let us put aside the temporary and live for the eternal. The Lord bless you all. Amen.