

Father we are blessed, we are your children and as they just sang, we are like a flower gently fading away, here today and gone tomorrow. May every day that you give us may we be a light to shine for you. As the students have said may we be devoted to what you want us to do.

Thank you ladies, I love that song. Someone told me that I don't even need to preach. We truly have a miracle standing over here as Cedric was standing here he was at death's door. What a praise for him to be here.

I love our staff and all they do. I am so proud of Seth and Shelly. Those of you that know me know the youth was priority #1 for me. I love you and support all you do. Be in special prayer for Brother Bob Bailey; he had tests and will have to have another brain surgery. We want to pray for you and Liz.

Are you excited for our young people? I am first up for what you have done and will continue to do.

I think of Matthew and what he said about you and I as believers to be salt. I was in Miami and did some fishing; well I go catching not fishing. The fisherman uses salt to preserve and we are to be devoted to Christ and to be the salt to help stop the decaying around us.

We are to be lights where ever we go. May our light shine across the world.

3 quick things.

We are to live a devoted life. 1 Timothy 6:11-12

11: "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

12: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

This life is quickly fading away. We are here today and gone tomorrow we must lay hold of eternal life.

As we move along.

We need to flee from some things; we need to go away, turn another direction. We move the other way.

We are to flee from some things.

The word flee is a verb; we are to flee now and continue to flee from the worldly things that come our way. We need to be fleeing from some things; to keep on running. Those that live godly are constantly fleeing.

Remember Joseph in the Bible? The Kings wife tried to seduce him and he ran. The king tried to kill him.

We are to separate ourselves and dedicate our lives to be different.

11: "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

"From such withdraw yourself" and practice godly things.

Paul says flee.

2 Timothy 2:22

"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

We are to pursue righteousness; faith love and peace with all! We need to be a peaceful loving church. Lynn and I pray every day for the peace and protection of this body. It's alive and can be hurt quickly. We must be committed and devoted to love, forgive and to be faithful to the Lord and to flee. If we do that, we will be united, but the salt, help to prevent the decay; we will see this place filled and see people come to know the Lord Jesus; not just on Sunday but Monday through Saturday too.

1 Corinthians 6:18

"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body."

These folks that say they are not afraid of anything are fools. Anything that hurts your witness, you need to flee from it. I remember years ago Dr. W. A. Criswell from Dallas said this. "That he would not pick up a female church member walking in the rain." Why, because the look of that could cause question on his Ministry. That sounds harsh but we must be careful of what things look like. It's important.

We are to separate ourselves from the appearance of evil. We are not to flirt with sin unless we get stung.

If you know me at all.... The most of you are into this.... But I am not a huge fan of Facebook; I will tell you a story about someone that used to come to this church. A man

came up to me and said "Pastor Tim I have found an old girlfriend on Facebook and she lives in Florida and he is married with children. He thinks that he needs to pack up and go to Florida and help her. I said are you crazy! You should run away from that. That is my biggest concern with being on Facebook. If you want to tell people that you are reading your paper now, that's fine.

But we need to flee from sin and the very appearance of sin. Amen!

We are to follow after some things.

"But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue..."

It means we need to follow after some things as well. It means to follow after, to press on. We are devoted we are to follow after it in hot pursuit.

We will follow after some things;

First is righteousness and then godliness. If you are not right with the saints you are not right with God.

These things don't just show up on Sunday morning. We come in for our move me pastor, move me Brother Dave, inspire me.

I love that, it helps me to get before you; but if you are hanging on to that spiritual Sunday shot, a lot happens Monday - Saturday. We need to be all consumed as believers and let the church be the church out of these 4 walls as well. We must pursue after God and seek devotion to him.

Fight For Some Things

Verse 12 says to fight the good fight.

12: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

The Greek word for fight is where we get the word agonize. We are to strive again and again. We are to keep on striving; fighting. You will fight your way to godliness or we will never be Godly.

The old flesh will come in and bring us down to where we were.

Before Baptism we we're sharing, it is so important that you nail down your salvation and when you we're baptized. Because satan is coming to you and me and will say "you we're young, you didn't know what you we're doing" and you say Flee from me satan,

get away from me. I may not have known everything about scripture but He made a difference.

We need to get serious about Christ. People in the church have let their salvation get stale and stagnate. I spoke a few weeks ago about sitting on the fence. It is up to us to make a difference. How can you tell if your salvation has grown stale? How many people have you talked to about Jesus in the last few weeks? Just to give a word? How many of you have said. I love my church, there are great things going on there. I can hardly wait to get there.

What is your level of enthusiasm? We have to fight the good fight as we talk about our devotion to the Lord.

What is on the inside is what causes what happens on the outside. The success of this church does not rise and fall around this pulpit or our staff. I love our staff. But the rise and fall of this church is on the church body. There is no way that your staff can knock on every day. It's all we can do to make hospital visits, etc. I don't get up on Sunday morning and think I will preach this today. Oh no! Not me, it takes a while for me. That is why I am thankful for Brother Donnie.

We need to Flee. Your excitement needs to splash over other people around us.

We need to lay hold on to a devoted life.

What are you learning about God? His forgiveness, His love, His unity? Or are you distorting the life you lead?

Soon we will start a program called Operation Freedom; which is a group that will study in Sunday School together and it covers a lot of stuff.

What is holding you back with your devotion to Christ? What are you eyes on? What are your treasures?

I will call you to pray for our church, for ourselves, maybe someone needs to be saved or baptized. Whatever your decision is, on that first note, make your commitment for Christ today. Let's move forward.

Father God, may you penetrate our hearts and help us to be more devoted to you every day.

Let's stand as we sing together.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Tim: Has that grace fallen on you?

Amen church be seated. It's been a great day to be in the house of the Lord, amen. I want to thank our students, Brother Seth, Shelly. Tonight please come back at 6:00 we will have a meet and greet with Seth and Shelly; we want to welcome them and will have a time of Q&A. Go home and write your notes down, but not too tough. We will talk about the direction for our young people. I look forward to see you back tonight.