

## *Final Instructions*

### “Final Instructions About Fleeing Lust” 2 Timothy 2:20-22 – November 12, 2006

#### Overview of Our 2 Timothy Study

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS: A 12-Week Study of Second Timothy			
Charge	Message Title	Text	Date
The Charge to Guard the Gospel	Final Instructions	1:1-2	Oct. 1
	Final Instructions About Passing on the Faith	1:3-7	Oct. 8
	Final Instructions About Suffering	1:8-18; 2:8-13	Oct. 15
Mike Haley	Final Instructions About Homosexuality	Testimony	Oct. 22
The Charge to Suffer for the Gospel	Final Instructions About Living a Wartime Lifestyle	2:1-7	Oct. 29
	Final Instructions About Quarreling	2:14-26	Nov. 5
	Final Instructions About Fleeing Lust	2:20-22	Nov. 12
The Charge to Continue in the Gospel	Final Instructions About The Last Days	3:1-9	Nov. 19
	Final Instructions About The Bible – Part 1	3:10-17	Nov. 26
The Charge to Proclaim the Gospel	Final Instructions About The Bible – Part 2	4:1-5	Dec. 3
	Final Instructions About Finishing Strong	4:6-8	Dec. 10
	Final Instructions About People	4:9-22	Dec. 17

#### Clift Notes Summary of 2 Timothy 2:14-26

In order to be useful to the Master (in order to pursue noble purposes) we must...

1. flee youthful lusts (today’s message)
2. avoid quarreling (last week’s message).

#### What Are “Youthful Lusts”?

- *epithumia* = a longing for what is forbidden; desire; lust; strong desire; passion
- **1 John 2:16** (NAS) – *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*
- Conclude:
  1. The source of lust is the world and our flesh.
  2. Lust begins with what we allow our \_\_\_\_\_ to see.
- **Matthew 5:27-28** - *You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
- Examples of Lust (Things We Are To Flee From):
  1. Pornography (internet, magazines, “adult” videos)
  2. Voyeurism (watching other people have sex on TV, movies, live)
  3. Having sex in our mind with someone we are not married to
  4. Undressing someone in our mind whom we are not married to
  5. Going to topless bars, strip joints, “adult” video stores, etc.
  6. Having sex with someone we are not married to (including petting and oral sex).

- Important Note: This command to flee from youthful lusts is NOT a command against longing sexually for your spouse. The Bible makes it clear that sex and sexual feelings within marriage are not only OK, but are very good (Genesis 2:24-25; Song of Solomon; Proverbs 5:15-19).
- John Stott: “This is not to be understood exclusively as a reference to sexual lust, but to self-assertion as well as self-indulgence, to selfish ambition, headstrong obstinacy, arrogance and indeed all the wayward impulses of youth.”

#### Why We Should Flee Youthful Lusts

##### 1. Because God \_\_\_\_\_ (v.22)

- **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** - *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

##### 2. Because they are a \_\_\_\_\_ (v.26)

- **Proverbs 5:3-9** – *The lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.... Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel (lit. “the cruel one”).*
- **James 1:14-15** - *Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

##### 3. So that you can be \_\_\_\_\_ to the Master (vv.20-21)

- The analogy: Vessels used in a large house
  - House = the Church; the body of Christ
  - Wood/clay vessels used for ignoble purposes = containers used to carry garbage and human waste
  - Gold/silver vessels used for noble purposes = vessels used by the master of the house to eat and drink
  - Punchline: If a person will cleanse himself from ignoble pursuits such as quarreling, false teaching, and pursuing youthful lusts, then he can be a vessel in the Master’s hand which the Master can use for His purposes – noble purposes, good works, holy purposes.
- **Application #1:** What are the purposes that you believe the Master wants to use you for? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Application #2:** What are the ignoble things/pursuits that you need to cleanse yourself from in order to be used by the Master? \_\_\_\_\_
- John Stott: “No higher honour could be imagined than to be an instrument in the hand of Jesus Christ, to be at His disposal for the furtherance of His purposes, to be available whenever wanted for His service. The Master of the house lays down only one condition. The vessels which He uses must be clean.”
- Iman Santosso: “I have studied the histories of civilizations. History shows time and time again that great nations fall and collapse when morality greatly decreases.

The immorality of America grieves my heart. The pornography of America is rampant, and America is exporting pornography all over the world. This is very bad. Islam has a plan and a strategy to “evangelize” the whole world by 2020 AD. Islam will take over America if morality continues to decrease in America. But, if America will cry out to God and repent and pray, America can experience the greatest revival that the world has ever seen.”

- **Application #3:** Will America be useful to the Master? Grace Fellowship, let’s do 2 Chronicles 7:14 on behalf of our nation!

## How Do We Flee Youthful Lusts?

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.22)

- John MacArthur: “*Flee* is from ‘phuego,’ from which ‘fugitive’ is derived. The Greek verb is here a present imperative of command, indicating that fleeing is not optional but is to be persistent (and continual). That meaning is reflected in the term ‘fugitive,’ which refers to a person who is continually on the run in order to escape capture. The faithful Christian is continually on the run, as it were, from the sinful passions that started when we were young.”
- Biblical picture of fleeing = \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 39 – esp. v.12)
- **Application #4:** Which of the following do you want to grow in? (circle)

#### *Ten Practical Suggestions for Fleeing Youthful Lusts*

1. Glass everywhere. (Nothing hidden).
2. Don’t be alone with the opposite gender... ever! (except spouse).
3. Don’t develop an emotional relationship/friendship with a person of the opposite gender (except spouse).
4. Don’t counsel the opposite gender.
5. Don’t go to “the liquor store.” Remove yourself from temptations. Remove temptations from you.
6. Seek healing for your unresolved issues. Invest in counseling in order to get whole (see yellow card of suggested counselors on care wall).
7. Have regular, transparent accountability in your life.
8. Watch each other’s backs. Protect one another.
9. Have a prayer shield in your life.
10. Walk with God. Christ in the driver’s seat.

### 2. Pursue a \_\_\_\_\_ (v.22)

- Don’t just flee... pursue something/Someone greater!
- Kent Hughes: “The picture created by Paul’s contrasting commands of ‘flee’ and ‘pursue’ is dynamic. Timothy was to flee as fast as his feet would carry him away from the headstrong desires of youth. At the same time he was to sprint, arms stretched out, after righteous conduct, faith, love for others, and peace.”
- The dual commands of Scripture:

<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Flee</i>	<i>Pursue</i>
Matthew 16:24	Deny yourself	Follow Christ
Ephesians 4:22-24	Put off old self	Put on the new self
Colossians 3:1-17	Put to death what belongs to your earthly nature	Set your minds on heavenly things; clothe yourself with...
Galatians 5:16-25	Crucify the flesh	Walk in the Spirit
2 Timothy 2:22	Flee youthful lusts	Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace

- C.S. Lewis: “Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a (vacation) at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”
- John Piper: “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”
- Westminster Catechism: “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”
- **Application #5:** Steps I need to take to pursue the highest pleasure are \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. Band \_\_\_\_\_ to help you succeed (v.22)

- We need each other!!!! ...in order to flee youthful lusts and to pursue God!
- **Application #6:** Some ways that I want to band with others in order to flee youthful lusts and to pursue God and His ways/work are:
  1. Invite someone to be my accountability partner (same gender) and begin revealing my life to them. As God leads, tell them everything! (Study Ted Roberts’ Pure Desire with my accountability partner.)
  2. Sign up for [www.covenanteyes.com](http://www.covenanteyes.com) with an accountability person.
  3. Start going to Celebrate Recovery (Tuesday nights, men) to get help, accountability, and healing.
  4. Get help with bondage issues through Grace Fellowship’s Freedom in Christ ministry: [halsheikh@houston.rr.com](mailto:halsheikh@houston.rr.com) or 281-346-0555.
  5. Get in a small group that is pursuing God (see small group kiosk).
  6. Pursue God with others at Audience of One (Tues Noon, Thurs 8pm)
  7. Pursue God by serving with others in children, youth, usher/greet, etc.
  8. Pursue God by serving with others on a mission trip.

### Discussion Questions with Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:20-22 aloud. What strikes you and speaks to you in this passage?
2. What do you think it means/looks like to be “useful to the Master”? What can hinder that? (To the extent that you are comfortable sharing): What are your Applications #2 and #3?
3. What did you think about Iman Santosso’s quote? What needs to happen for America to be “useful to the Master”? (Stop and pray together for this.)
4. What does it look like to live v.22? What are your Applications #4, #5, #6? Pray for each other.

If interested in being in “Someone I Love is Gay” (SILIG) small group that starts in January, drop an email to [jim@whatisgrace.org](mailto:jim@whatisgrace.org). This small group experience is a prerequisite for serving in the AIDS ministry small group. You are welcome to be in this SILIG group even if you do not have a loved one who is gay but you want to pursue the prerequisite for the AIDS ministry.