**“FOUR VERBS TO ACHIEVE ADVANCEMENT”**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1) scripture - I Timothy 6:11-15

 -a. For Paul to strive to teach “our advancing in Christ”,

 we must look to what he taught Timothy in this “effort”,

 for the same lessons are to be understood.

 -b. This letter was written to “Timothy”, a young man that Paul chose to accompany

 him on many of his “missionary journeys” into other lands.

 -c. Acts 16:1-6

 -d. Timothy was faithful unto God and a steadfast servant unto Paul – Phil. 2:20-21

 -e. I Timothy 1:2… ***”my true child in the faith…”***

2) With this letter, Timothy was “exhorted” to grow – 4:13

 mature – 4:15

 move forward in Christ – 4:12

 -a. a contrast is drawn that sets the tone for the following verses

 -b. I Tim.6:3 - those believing different doctrines

 I Tim.6:7-10 – those seeking what this world offers

 -c. Then comes I Timothy 6:11… ***”but thou…”***

 -a-. yes, there are others doing things not correct

 -b-. yes, there are those serving what this life desires

 -c-. but **YOU** MUST strive for a higher purpose

  **“WE”** must strive for a higher purpose

3) In all reality, those things which Paul instructed Timothy to carry out are still

 true for us TODAY, items we need to do if we are to “move forward in Christ”

**THOUGHTS:**

**(I)”FLEE”- I Timothy 6:11**

 1) **“flee”** means to run from, to leave far behind

 and the opposite of this word would mean to embrace, cling to, grasp and hold on

 -a. Gen.19: as God was going to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah

 -b. Lot and his family were to flee to a city to save their lives – Gen.19:20

 2) The “list” goes on and on as to the things we are to “flee”..

 -a. places that we should not attend -

 -b. language that we should not be using – Col.3:8

 -c. attitudes that we should be correcting – Col.3:8…anger, wrath, malice

 -d. teachers of different doctrines – I Tim. 6:3-5

 -e. I Thess.5:21 – “prove all things, hold fast to that which is good.

 abstain from the appearance of evil..”

 3) “flee” from being tied/held in bondage/enslaved to “this world” , so that we are

 “pilgrims”, and not “residents”

 -a. for we are just traveling thru – I Pet.2:11

 -b. Hebrews 11:13

 4) II Timothy 2:4… “don’t get so tangled up that you can’t let go”

 5) Whatever the events/items might be that are contrary to Christ,

 they are not to be a part of our lives…

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**(II) “FOLLOW” – I Timothy 6: 11**

 1) **“follow”** refers to the thought of “pursuing after”

 “the trail which we seek to go down”

 2) The path we chose to “follow” has been set forth by the God that seeks

 to save us eternally – Jer.6:16

 -a. various “roads” exist within this world

 -b. Matt.7:13-14 tells of the “broad way”

 tells of the “narrow way”

 -c. and each day we “CHOSE” the road upon which we walk

 -d. Although the scriptures speak of some who are followers of Satan –I Tim.5:15

 salvation will be for those who chose to follow the “Lamb”- Rev.14:14

 3) And then there is given a basic “to do list” as to items to follow after:

 I Timothy 6:11…

 a) righteousness *–* seeking to uphold right doing

 striving for maturity II Tim.2:22..”pursue righteousness…”

 b) godliness -- the putting God at the center of our lives, not at the bottom.

 that being the “image” we seek to show from our lives

 James 1:25 –looking into the “law” and molding our

 lives to conform/change

 c) faith – a faith that motivates us to keep moving forward, upward

 a faith that “sees” the “unseen’ that is coming one day –

 II Cor.4:18…

 ***“while we look not at the things that are seen,***

 ***but at the things which are not seen…”***

 d) love – for God, others, the truth

 -a. serves not “self”

 -b. seeks to encourage, build up others

 e) patience – it is the “keeping on” no matter what challenges come,

 the enduring that moves forward KNOWING of the promised future

 Romans 15:4.. ***“these things are written that thru patience…***

 ***we might have hope…”***

 James 5:7-8.. as the farmer “waits” for the coming harvest

 f) meekness – refers to an attitude of not haughty nor self-righteous,

 rather submissive and acknowledging a superior authority.

  ***“allowing guidance over our wills, accepting it’s superiority”***

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**(III) “FIGHT” – I Timothy 6:12**

 1) **“fight”** meaning to battle against

 to be at odds against an opponent

 -1-. Original word here is ***“agonizomai”*** which conveys the idea of a

 continual and disciplined struggle to acquire a prize…

 -2-. for there is an enemy that seeks to “rob us of the promised prize”

 I Peter 5:8

 2) There is an “armor” that we are to suit ourselves in so that we may battle,

 -a. Eph.6:10-11

 -b. for the ability to battle REQUIRES our being prepared

 ***“…so that you will be able to stand…”***

 3) and the fight is for “THE FAITH”…”THE TRUTH”…”THE GOSPEL” – I Tim.6:12

 -a. there is the need to “defend” – Jude verse 3

 “defense and confirmation”

 -b. there is the need to “promote”/proclaim Phil.1:7;17

 4) BUT, to do either, to proclaim **OR** defend requires a

 KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURES -- II Pet.3:18

 5) Every day presents events that we can either grow from

 **OR**

 be defeated by

 6) “give diligence” to present yourselves “approved” – II Tim.2:15

 -a. an effort

 -b. a desire will be required, for it is so easy to be pulled down

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**(IV) “FOCUS” – I Timothy 6:12**

 1) to **“focus”** implies on setting aside other things around,

 specific attention to the item “focused upon”

 ILL> as a hunter sets his sights on the prey he is seeking

 -a-. not with a wide angle lens

 -b-. but with a scope that pinpoints his exact target

 ***“aims towards his desired intent”***

 -c-. I Cor.9:26.. “run in such a way, as not without aim…”

 -a. ***“lay hold of eternal life”*** in that we need to

 -1-. reach for it earnestly

 -2-. let that be what attracts our attention, not what is earthly

 -b. for “some” have “the here and now” as their focus

 Phil.3:18-19… ***“who set their minds on earthly things…”***

 -c. We must Col.3:2… ***“...set your minds on the things above..”***

 2) We HAVE TO decide that “heaven” IS our goal,

 and when that is done, all other things will fall into place…

 -a. Matthew 7:21

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**CONCLUSION:**

1) In closing, we need to be sure that we are **‘fleeing”** from those things which will

 deter us from God,

 **following** after that which will ensure our maturity

  **fighting** so as to not lose the battle

 **focusing** on that which is beyond

2) If we are doing these things…

 “an entrance shall be provided” -

3) II Pet.1:10-11