

Dear friends and family,

The early 1900's pastor and author A.W. Tozer wrote:

“First, put this down as an unfailing rule: Never seek the leading of the Lord concerning an act that is forbidden in **God's Word**. To do so is to convict ourselves of insincerity.

Again, **prophet, psalmist, apostle and our blessed Lord** point out the way of positive obedience. His yoke is easy, His burden is light, so let this be the second rule: Never seek the leading of the Lord concerning an act commanded in the **Scriptures**.

Now, a happy truth too often overlooked in our anxious search for God's will is that in the majority of decisions touching our lives God expresses no choice but allows us to choose our preference.

Some Christians walk uncertainly, worrying about which profession they should enter, which car they should drive, which school they should attend, where they should live and other such matters. The Lord has set Christians to follow their own personal bent, guided only by their love for Him and their fellow men.

It appears more spiritual to seek God's leading than to do the obvious thing. But it is not.

If God gave you a watch would you honor Him more by asking Him for the time of day or by consulting the watch?

Except for those things that are specifically commanded or forbidden, it is God's will that we be free to choose. The shepherd leads the sheep but he does not decide which tuft of grass the sheep shall nibble. Touching our life on earth God is pleased when we are pleased. He wills that we be as free as birds to soar and sing our Maker's praises without anxiety. God's choice for us may be any one of a score of possible choices. The Christian who is wholly and joyously surrendered to Christ cannot make a wrong choice.

But what about those times when much is at stake and we can discover no **clear scriptural instruction** and yet are forced to choose between two possible courses? We have God's faithful promise to guide us aright.

...

Take your problem to the Lord. Remind Him of these promises. If you are dedicated to God's purpose, He will not permit you to make a mistake.”

This past Sunday my sermon centered upon “The God Who Leads.”

We examined three precepts from our text of scripture:

- 1) God never leads us into temptation.
- 2) God leads the way, but doesn’t promise the way will be easy.
- 3) God has given us His Word to show us the way.

In each instance, we discovered that God’s Word is to be central in discerning His will for our lives and how we should live as Christians.

Pastor’s Point of View

The big question: **If God gave you a watch (the Bible) would you honor Him more by asking Him for the time of day or by consulting the watch?**

Day 1 - READ 1 Timothy 6:1-2

1. According to Romans 6:20-23, who are we?
2. As a slave of God how do you bring Him honor?
3. In contrast, how do you dishonor God? How would you bring about the disregard of His name and the doctrine of the Bible?

Day 2 - READ 1 Timothy 6:3-10

1. We have a duty and responsibility to keep the sound doctrine of scripture central in all we do. How can you do this? What steps might you need to take?
2. What qualities are displayed when we are not following God’s word and applying it in our lives?
3. Commit verse 6 to memory. What would your life look like if you were sold out to godliness and contentment?
4. Why does Paul warn us that we should not seek after material wealth? Is he saying that wealth is bad or wrong?
5. This scripture is often misquoted as “Money is the root of all evil.” In reality, Scripture explains that it is the “*love* of money that is the root of all evil.” What does this mean? How does this relate to contentment? How does that change how you understand this text?
6. What happens when we follow sin?

Day 3 - READ 1 Timothy 6:11-16

1. Look up and define the following words: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.
2. How do you daily *fight the good fight*? Are you meditating on scripture day and night?
3. What does it mean to “take hold of the eternal life to which you were called?”
4. How does this passage close? Is it encouraging or admonishing?
5. “To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.” Remember that Amen means solid, steadfast, and true. Reflect on what it means that Jesus Christ is the steadfast savior worthy of honor.

Day 4 - READ 1 Timothy 6:17-20

1. Detail the commands given in this passage. Why is this important? Especially for believers?
2. As thanksgiving and Christmas approach, reflect on how you can be generous with others as God has been generous with you.
3. Consider 1 Timothy 6:19. Is salvation based on works? What does this passage mean?
4. Compare 1 Timothy 6:19 with Ephesians 2:8-9. Do these Scriptures contradict each other? (Hint: The answer is no.) So what do they mean? Write out how these verses compliment one another.
5. Reflect back on this study through the book of 1 Timothy. In the past, what have you held on to that was false knowledge? Why is it important to dismiss false knowledge and replace it with truth? Have you seen the impact of false knowledge in a church setting, in politics, or in your personal life? What are the results of false knowledge? Why is it so dangerous?
6. What have you learned about the church and how God ordained it to operate?

We are all charged to “avoid worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called knowledge”. We are not called to “angrily argue” for our faith (Romans 8:5-8). However, we are called to be read, to be witnesses, and to go into all of the world. The truth is we must know how to support our faith with truth and always be ready.

Before you can know the truth, you must know the Truth Giver. Who do you pray for? Who needs to know Jesus as their personal savior? How can you reach them in the love of Christ? Is anything required of you to do that? Who can you share the life giving message of the Gospel with this week? May you go prayerfully and share boldly. May you live in God’s will.

Grace be with you!

Pastor Matt

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Dr. Matthew Long

Senior Pastor

[FBC of Havelock](#)

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*