

# THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

## THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO TIMOTHY

**“Laying Hold On Eternal Life”**  
(1 Timothy 6:11-16)



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(I Timothy 6:11-16)



- Introduction / Greeting (1:1-7)
- The Lawful Use of the Law (1:5-11)
- Paul : A Pattern (1:12-17)
- Fight the good fight (1:18-20)
- Pray for leaders (2:1-7)
- Behavior in the church (2:8-15)
- Qual. of elders / Deacons (3:1-13)
- Behavior in God's House (3:14-16)
- The Great Apostasy (4:1-6)
- The Preachers Work (4:6-16)
- Treatment of One Another (5:1-25)
- “Godliness NOT A Means To Earthly Gain” (6:1-5)
- Godliness w/ Contentment (6:5-10)



## 1 Timothy 6:11–19 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, <sup>14</sup> that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

# 1 Timothy 6:11–19 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen. <sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. <sup>18</sup> *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, <sup>19</sup> storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)

Paul presents another contrast between the greedy pursuits of those who stray in 6:10 and the TRUE MAN OF GOD found in 6:11.

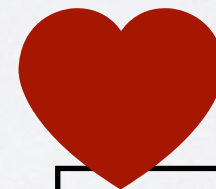


## FREE



**1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.



## PURSUE



**1 Timothy 6:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)



**1 Timothy 6:11  
(NKJV)**

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

## ■ BUT YOU, O MAN OF GOD (11)

- ▶ The designation ‘man of God’ is one often employed of prophets (1 Samuel 2:27; Deuteronomy 33:1; Judges 13:6; 1 Kings 12:22; 2 Kings 1:9; Jeremiah 34:4; 2 Timothy 3:17; 2 Peter 1:21),
- ▶ Denotes an individual as belonging to God and representing Him - the preacher is a man who belongs to God, rather than one whose heart is possessed by desire for wealth.



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)



**1 Timothy 6:11  
(NKJV)**

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

## ■ FLEE THESE THINGS (11)

- ▶ The word “flee” is a present imperative and denotes continuous action. A sharp contrast with those who are “reaching after” such things.
- ▶ “FLEE” all the enticing things that wealth can offer and the severe consequences that follow in the wake of love of money. ( 1 Co. 6:18; 10:14; 2 Ti. 2:22)
- ▶ Avoid the root cause and you can avoid the consequences.



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)



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## **AND PURSUE (11)**

- ▶ PURSUE : Seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavor to acquire, strive for, aspire, and the tense is present, keep on pursuing.
- ▶ “The verb ‘pursue’ has the image of a hunter who pursues an animal with intensity of purpose, for if he fails to bag the game, he will go hungry. That’s the kind of intensity the ‘man of God’ exhibits as he pursues the six qualities and virtues about to be enumerated” (Reese p. 283).



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)



**1 Timothy 6:11  
(NKJV)**

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## AND PURSUE (11)



**RIGHTEOUSNESS** : Our conduct in relation to God and man must be right or just, which is determined by God's standard (cf. Ps. 119:172).



**GODLINESS** : The attitude which seeks to please God and strives to live a life acceptable to Him.



**FAITH** : Active reliance upon God and His word including the idea of faithfulness and trustworthiness. The person who is loyal to Christ in all the circumstances of life.



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

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## **AND PURSUE (11)**



**LOVE** : The word love is from the Greek agapē which is love at its highest possible level. Agapē never fails in the face of duty (1 Cor. 13:4-8)



**PATIENCE** : Endurance under trial. Not merely acceptance, but by an active faith & service one is victorious over them.



**GENTLENESS** : Meekness - strength under control because he himself is God-controlled. (2 Tim. 2:24)



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)



**1 Timothy 6:12  
(NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> 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.

## ■ FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH (12)

- ▶ Struggle, contend, in the present tense and indicates the continuity of the struggle of this life.
- ▶ Christians are soldiers in a spiritual battle (1:18; 2 Tim. 2:3,4; Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Cor. 10:3-5).
- ▶ This the real battle, the battle between good and evil. There are so many struggles and “causes” in the world, this is the fight for which all our energy should be directed. (2 Tim. 2:3,4)



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## ■ LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE (12)

- ▶ Carefully note that eternal life for the Christian is not automatic and neither is it unconditional.
- ▶ Timothy must do something to gain eternal life and he must actively hold on to the relationship with God that he presently has. (Heb. 3:1,14ff; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Gal. 5:1-4)
- ▶ **“To which you were also called”** - the gospel calls one to eternal life (1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Thess. 2:12; 2 Thess. 2:14; Heb. 3:1).



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## ■ LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE (12)

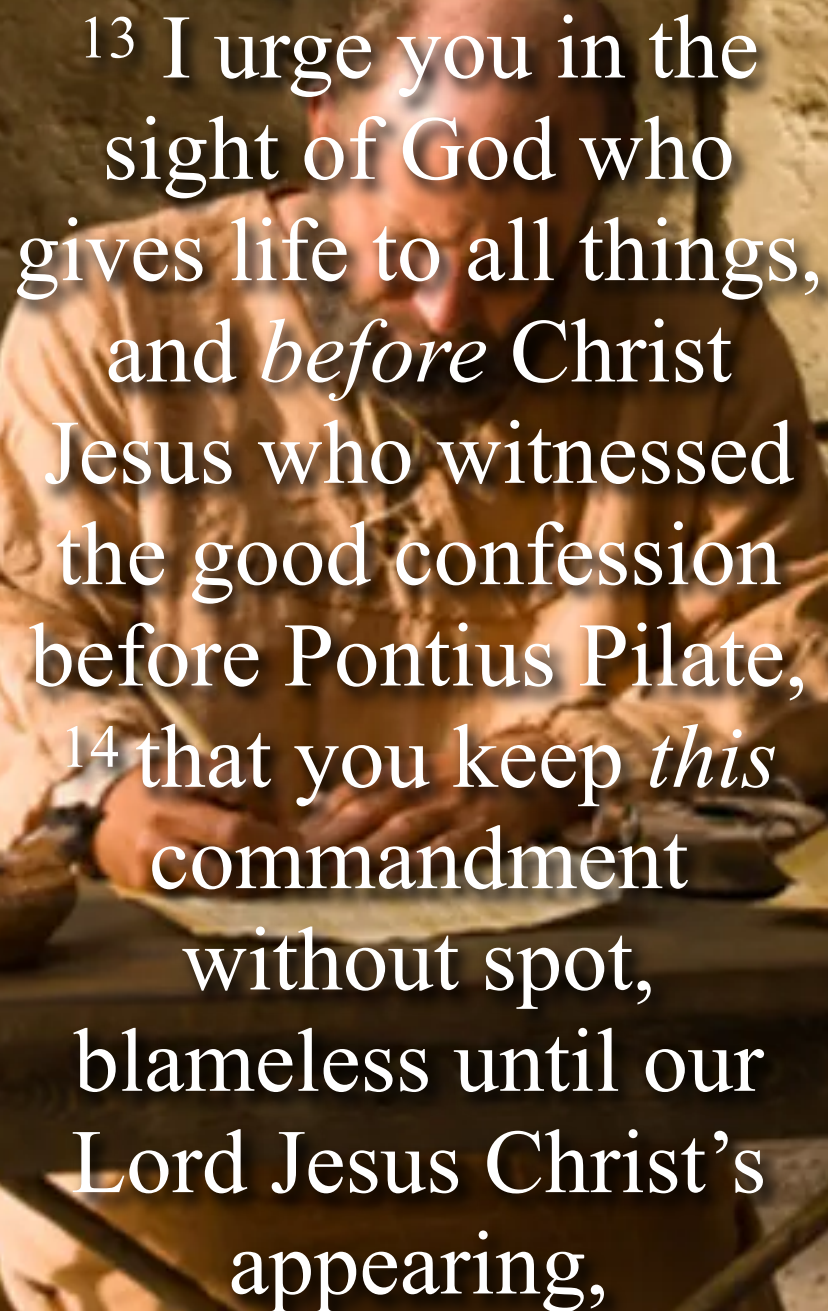
- ▶ **“and have confessed the good confession”** : Some believe this is Timothy’s confession before various rulers (Hebrews 13:23), or it may refer to the confession made prior to his baptism (Acts 8:37).
- ▶ Timothy is expected to honor his confession throughout his life.
- ▶ Cf. Matthew 10:32-33. “To fail to take hold of eternal life would be, in effect, to deny what he had once confessed” (Reese p. 287).



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)

## 1 Timothy 6:13,14 (NKJV)



<sup>13</sup> I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, <sup>14</sup> that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

## ■ YOU KEEP THIS COMMANDMENT (14)

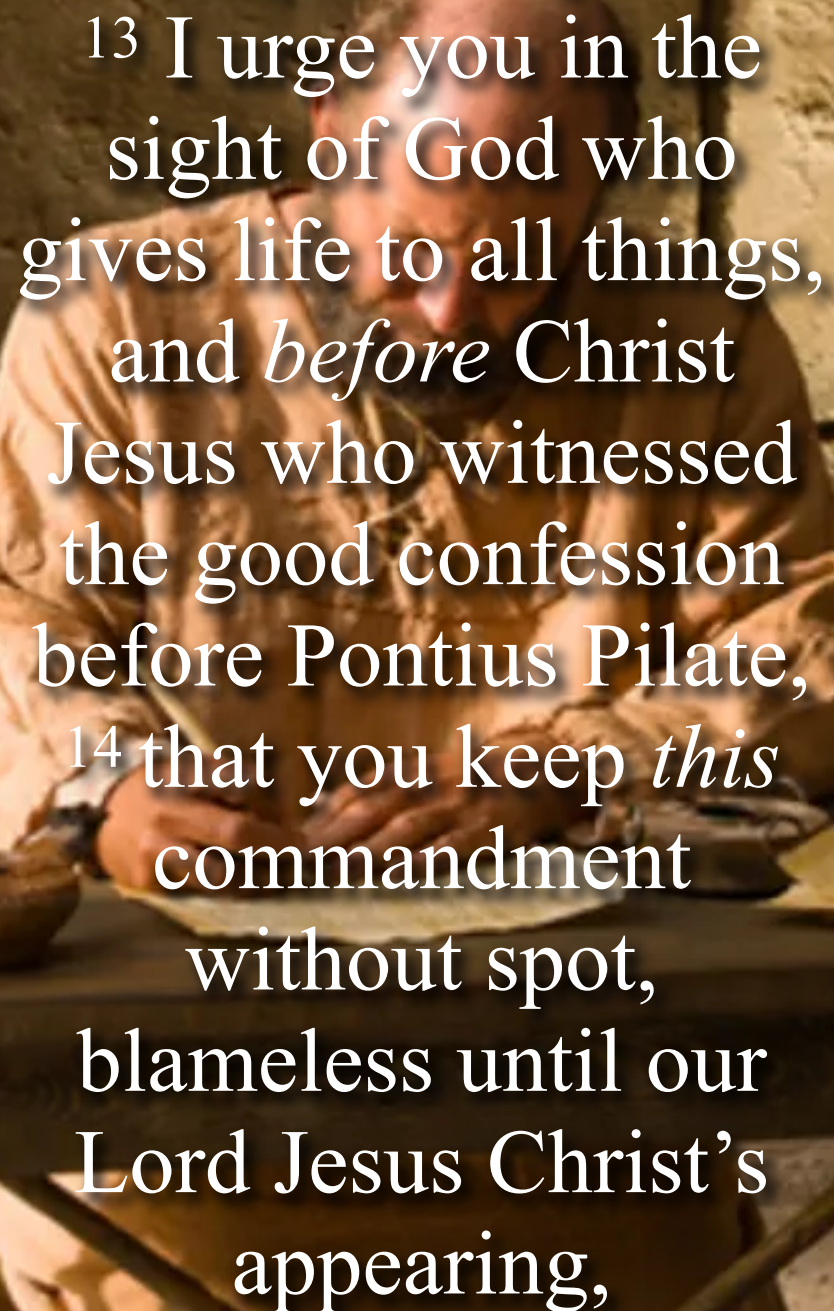
- ▶ “**I urge you**” : To command, order, give orders, instruct, direct
- ▶ “**in the sight of God**” : Here is an incentive to faithfulness, God is always watching and will hold him accountable if he fails to meet the responsibility he has accepted. (Cf. Gal. 1:20; 1 Tim 5:21; 2 Tim 2:14; 4:1).
- ▶ “**who gives life to all things**” : this is a present participle, thus God is pictured as a continuing life-giver. (Cf. Acts 17:25; Numbers 16:22)



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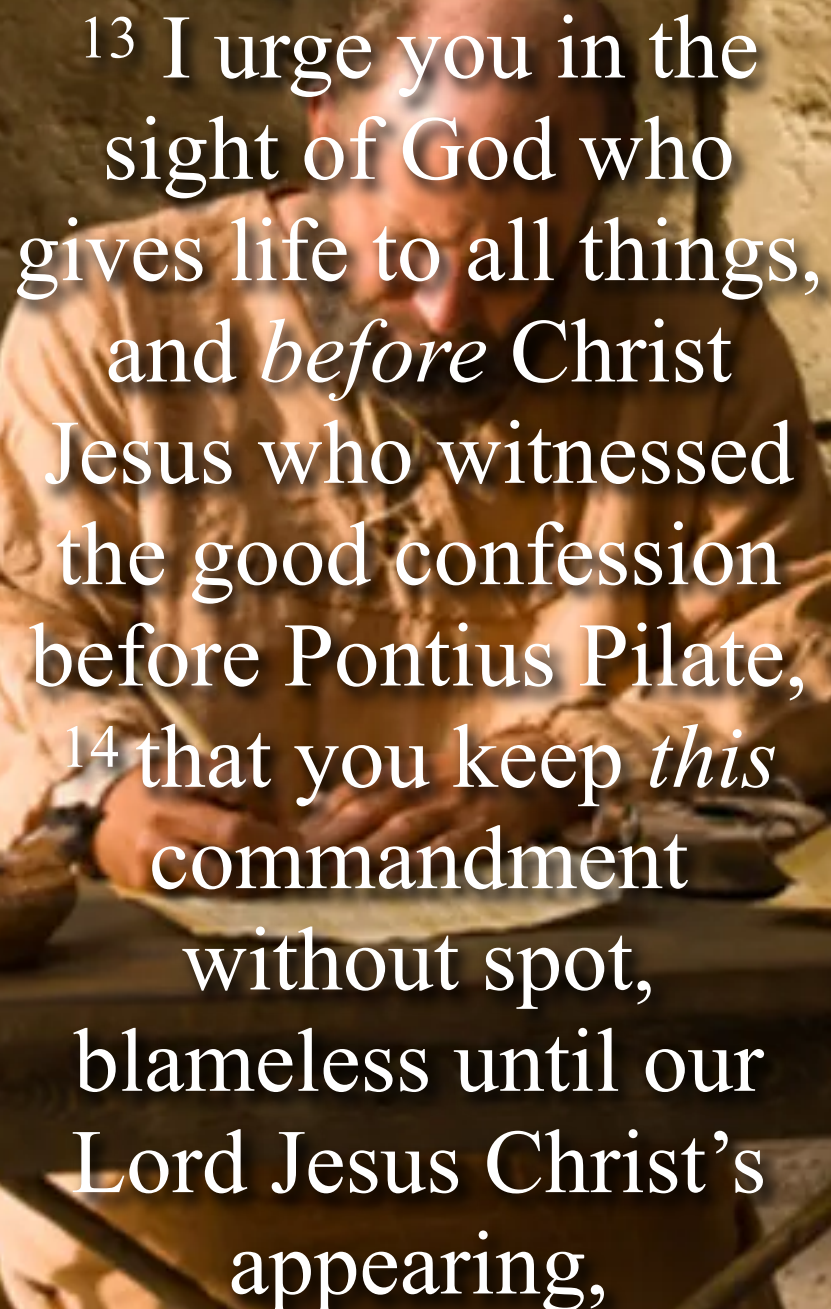
- ▶ “**and before Christ Jesus**” : The Lord who suffered & died for you & has been raised as Lord of lord's & King of kings (15)
- ▶ “**who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate**” : Jesus confessed He was King (Mat 27:11; Mk 15:2; Lk 23:2-3; Jn 18:37), & that He had a kingdom not of this world (Jn 18:36).
- ▶ This confession cost Jesus his life, yet, he made it and died that we might make it and live.



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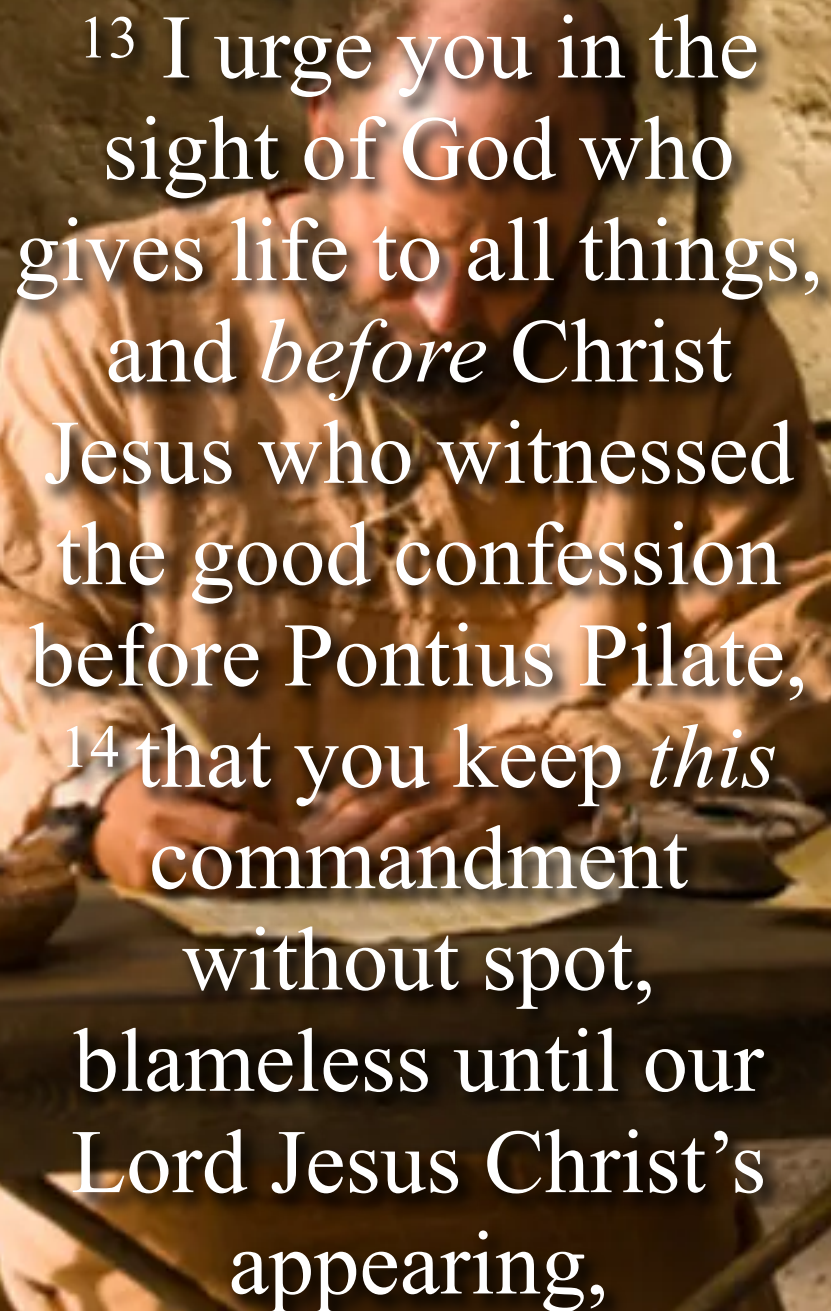
- ▶ “**that you keep this**” : means to “attend to carefully, take care of, to preserve intact.”
- ▶ “**commandment**” stands for the whole of God’s commandments in the NT (2 Pet 2:21; 3:2; 1 Tim. 1:5).
- ▶ “**without spot, blameless**” : Timothy must preach and live in such a way that no defilement or blame can be associated with him nor the one He claims to serve. (Phi. 2:15. Col. 1:22. Jude 24)



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)

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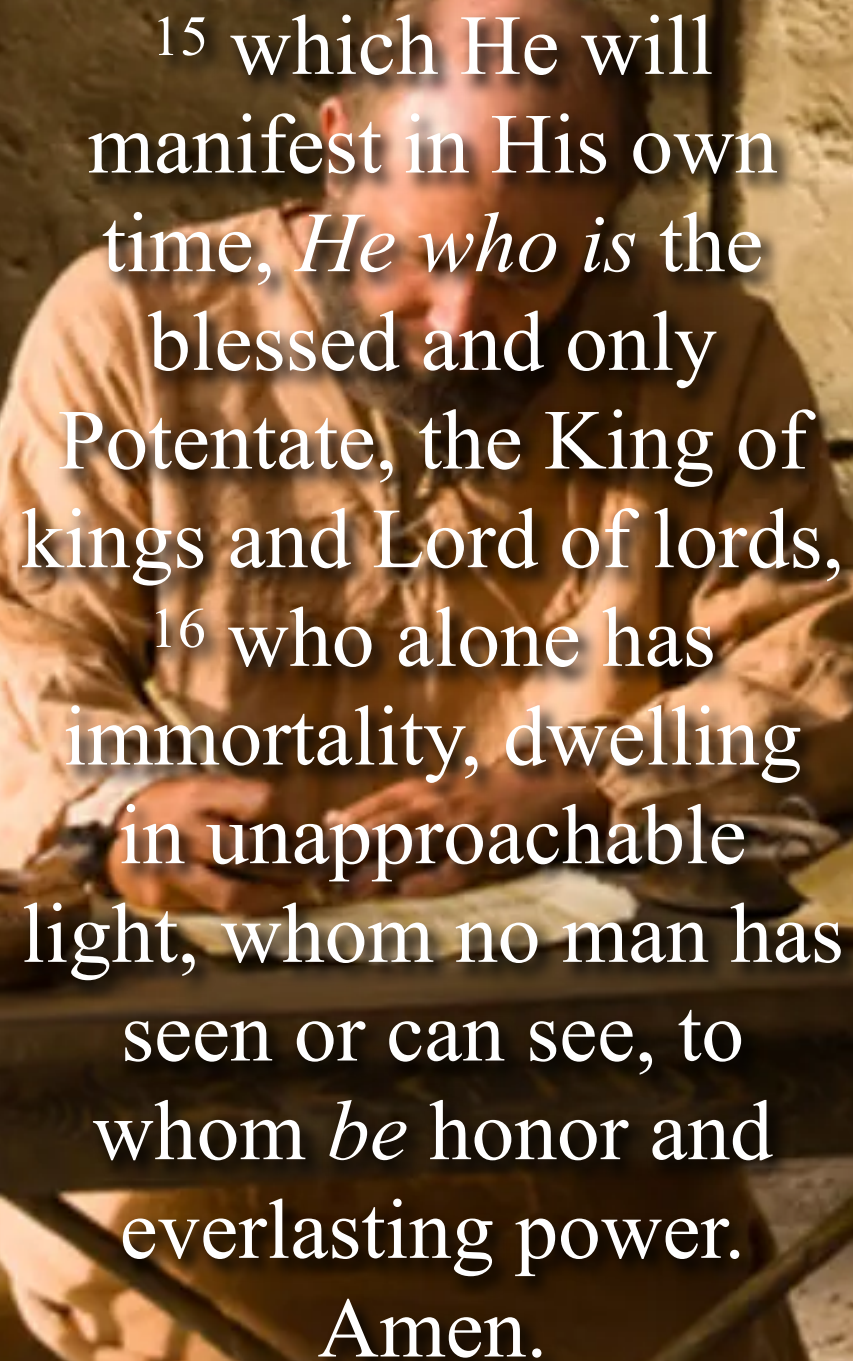
- ▶ “until our Lord Jesus Christ's **appearing**” : Timothy must be faithful until Jesus comes again (2 Timothy 1:10; 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; 2 Thess. 2:8).
- ▶ All Christians are still under this charge. Notice that the Second Coming is an appearing, a term which means “to become visible”. Jesus is not coming secretly or silently at some supposed rapture, rather, He will come and all will see Him (1 Thessalonians 4:16).



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)

## 1 Timothy 6:15,16 (NKJV)



<sup>15</sup> which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

## ■ WHICH HE WILL MANIFEST IN HIS OWN TIME (15,16)

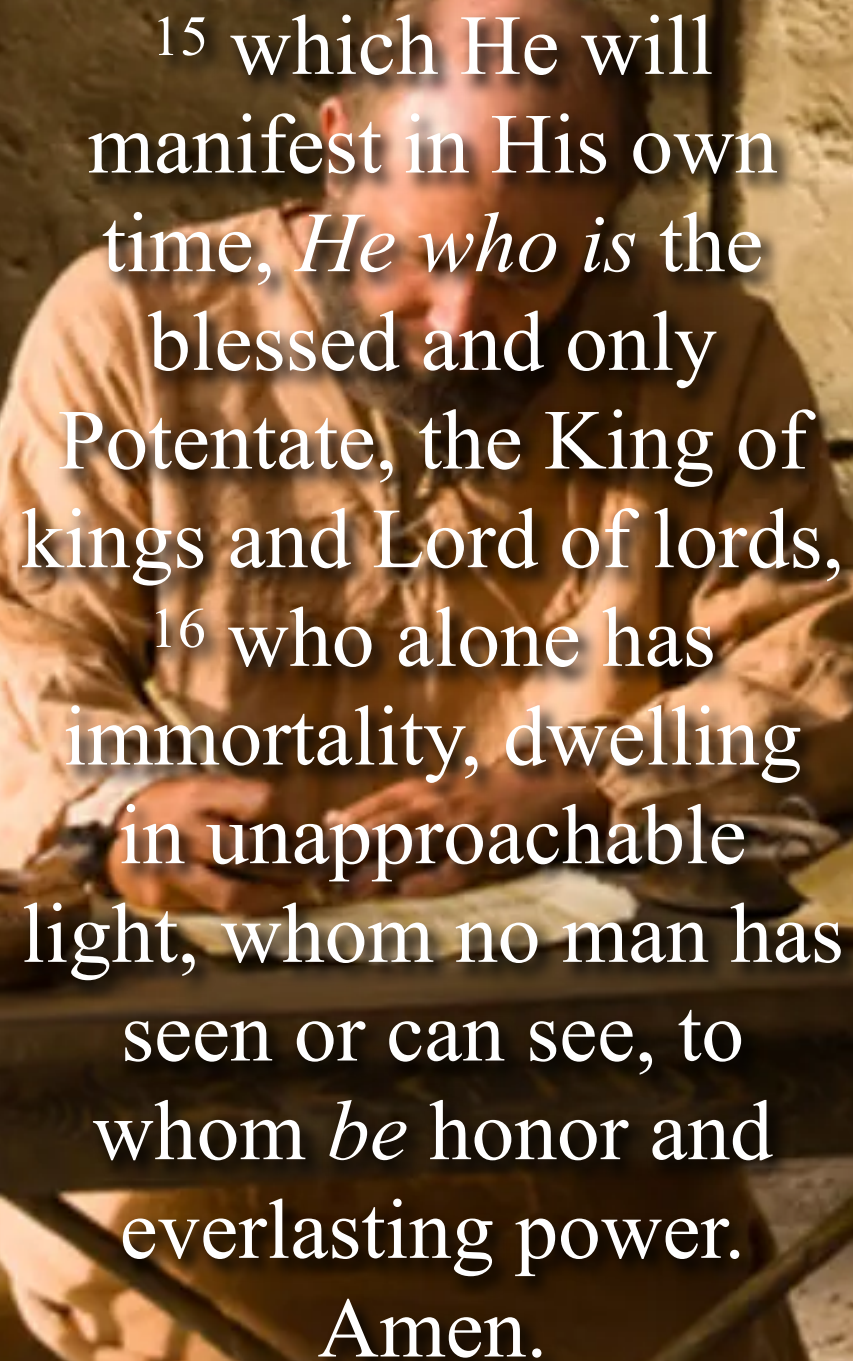
- ▶ The appearing of Christ will be in the Father's own time known only to Himself (Ac 1:7; Mt. 24:36).
- ▶ “**He who is the blessed and only Potentate**” : God possess a joy that originates within Himself and cannot be affected by external circumstances, notably due to the fact of the superiority of His supreme and complete authority.



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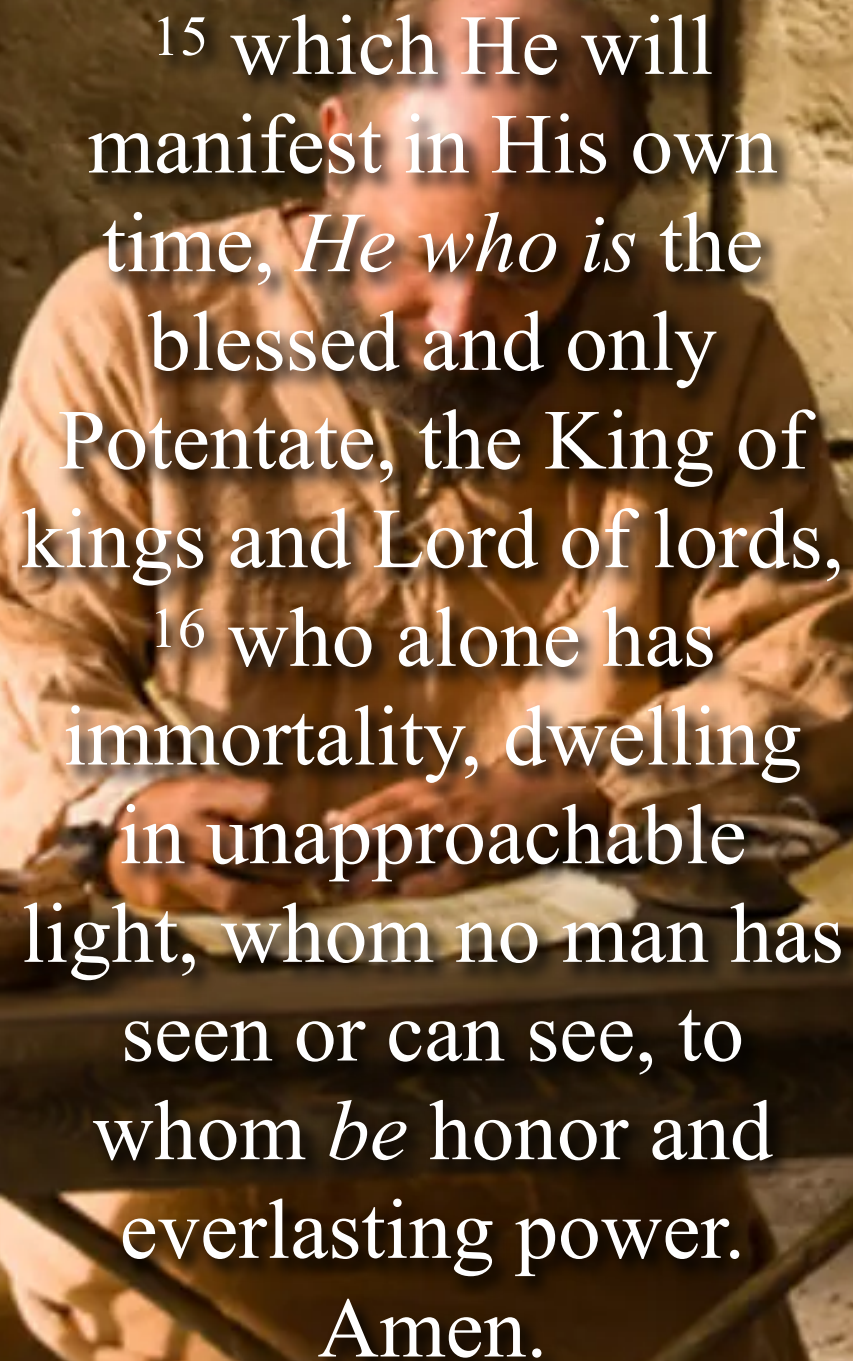
- ▶ “**the King of kings and Lord of lords**” : God is over all human rulers. (Cf Ps 136:2-3; Dt. 10:17)
- ▶ The same title is applied to Jesus in the Revelation letter (17:14; 19:16; 1:5).
- ▶ All human rulers need to remember that their authority to rule comes from God (Daniel 2:21; 4:25; 5:26-28; Rom. 13:1-4).



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

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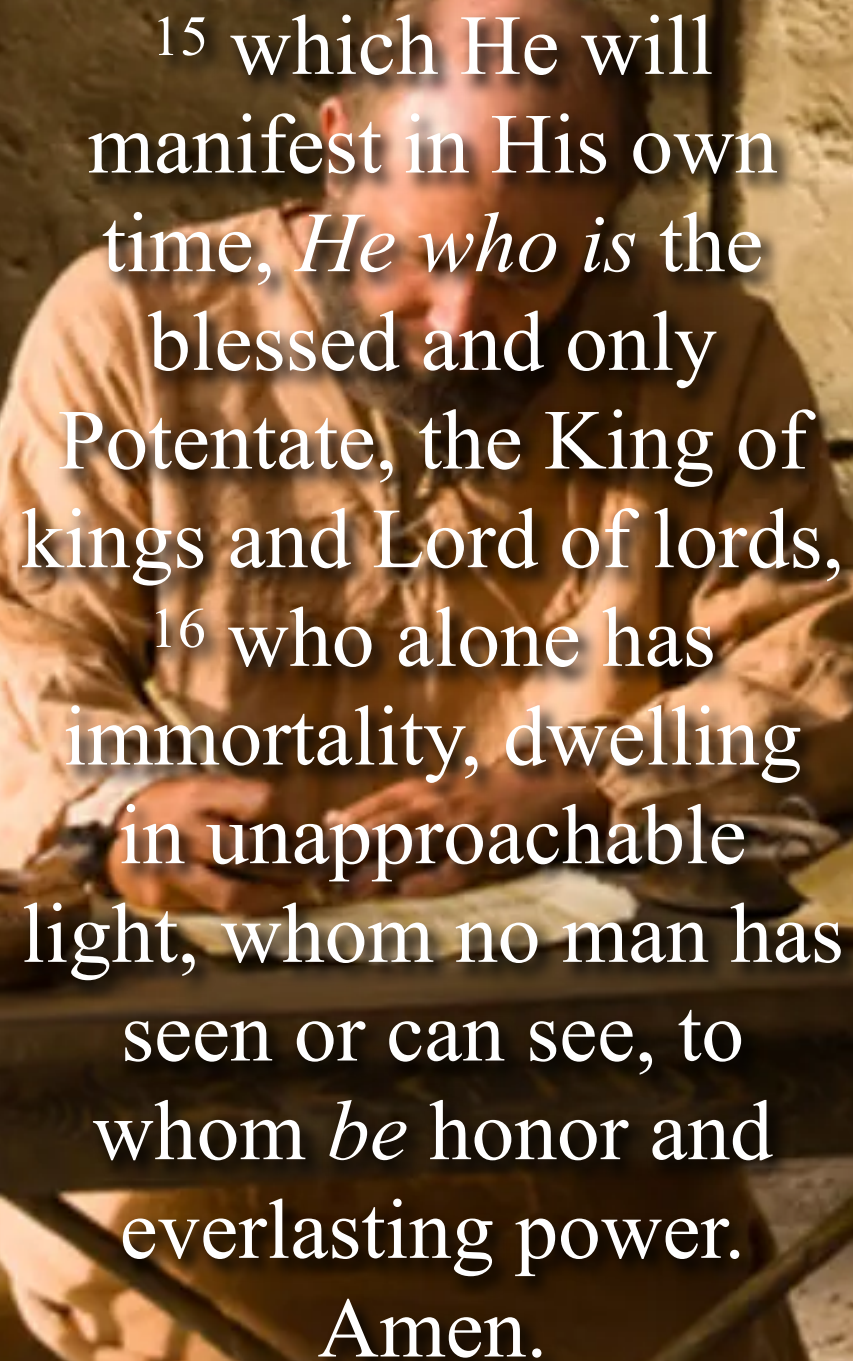
- ▶ **“who alone has immortality”** : God alone has the freedom from death, aging, & decay. God is exempt from death, this is one reason why Jesus had to become flesh, so He would assume a state in which He would be able to die (John 1:14).
- ▶ **“dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see”** : The inaccessibility of God to human senses. A reminder of God’s holiness and purity.



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Amen.



## WHICH HE WILL MANIFEST IN HIS OWN TIME (15,16)



**“to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.”** : God is worthy of all honor, He is also worthy to be the One who has eternal dominion. “This whole passage is a magnificent embodiment of the attributes of the living God, ...”



To the disappointment of the wicked and the encouragement of the righteous, God will never cease to be in charge.



# “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”

(I Timothy 6:11-16)



## ARE WE

Fleeing the Temptations of This World?

Are We Pursuing the Things of God?

Are We Fighting the Good Fight?

Are We Being True to our Confession?

Are We Living With the Awareness  
That We Will One Day Give an  
Account to God?

Are We Ready for Jesus To Return?







# THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

## **“Laying Hold On Eternal Life”**

(1 Timothy 6:11-19)

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## **Philippians 4:10–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.