

PURSUIT OF A CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

Paul issued two commands in our lesson text: **flee** (pheugo/ p.a.impv.2ps) and **pursue** (dioko/ p.a.impv.2ps).

Notice the THINGS Timothy was commanded to flee (1 Tim.6:3-10) are not mentioned in our text; but the THINGS that he was commanded to pursue are listed in (1 Tim.6:11).

The command (present imperative) to pursue tells us that the six THINGS listed are truths for the Christian way of life (CWL) rather than Positional Truths of salvation (2 Cor.5:17).

This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of the Pursuit of a Virtuous Christian Way of Life (CWL)
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1. What Paul is teaching with flee and pursue is part of the doctrine of Spiritual Transformation.

(Rom.12:2) “And do not be conformed to **this world**, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the **will of God** is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

You need to understand the two sides to transformation.

- Negative side (flee these things)
- Positive side (pursue these things)

They are in opposition to one another.

2. The contrast is between conforming to the world’s view or being transformed by Will of God.

We will examine four common contrasts that must be addressed in the CWL.

- **1st Contrast:**

- **Flee** the false teachings that have caused you to “wander from the faith of sound doctrines” (1 Tim.6:3-10).
- **Pursue** the virtuous life that comes from sound doctrine (1 Tim.6:11; Rom.10:17).

- **2nd Contrast:**

- “But I say, **walk** by means of indwelling Holy Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh (Old Sin Nature). For the flesh sets it desires against the Spirit, and the **Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that** you may not do the things that you please.” (Gal.5:16-17)

- **3rd Contrast:**

- ” For we **walk** by faith, not by sight.” (2 Cor.5:7)

- **4th Contrast:**

- “That, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted** in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and **put on the new self, which has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.**” (Eph.4:22-24)
- “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:8) (Matt.16:21-23)

3. The Spiritually Advancing Believer must understand that fleeing from something must also involve pursuing to something!

This gives meaning to the importance of the spiritual contrast listed in point one.

Putting off something that is against the Will of God without putting on something that is for the Will of God does not reach its intended purpose in the Plan of God.

(John 16:33) “These things I have spoken to you, **so that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.**”

What is contrasted in John 16:33?

In Me you have _____ In world you have _____

Which is your personal choice? _____ **How?** _____

(1 John 5:4) “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the **victory that overcomes the world – our faith.**” (Rom.10:17)

(Col.2:7) Having been **firmly rooted** and now **built up in Him** and **established in your faith**, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

4. The goal of Transformation is for the Spiritually Advancing Believer to reach and maintain the status of the Spiritually Mature man in Christ (Eph.4:10-16).

(Eph.4:13) “Until we all attain **to the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.**”

How do we attain these three - (to) which belong to the **fullness of Christ**?

Baby believers must take in milk doctrines (1 Pet.2:2) to advance to an Immature believer’s status, taking in meat doctrines to reach and maintain the status (walk) of a Spiritual Maturity believer. (Eph.4:13) (Heb.5:11-14).

(2 Cor.3:18) “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” (Ex.34:29-35)

(Col.1:15) “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” (Rom.8:29)

(Col.1:27) “To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

(Gal.2:20) “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”