

November 23, 2025
Sermon Notes: The End My Friend

1. Welcome & Introduction
 - a. Greeting first-time guests and WeeOnes families.
 - b. Celebrating the completion of the 1 Timothy series (“the end –just not the end-end!”).
 - c. Invitation to explore more via the Tab Podcast.
 - d. Central theme of the series: Discipleship as the common denominator of Christian life.

2. The Heart of Discipleship: A Life of Integrity
 - a. Discipleship is lived out in every relational sphere: family, work, neighborhood, friendships.
 - b. Applying God’s Word through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Leadership flows from character – others follow us as we follow Christ.
 - d. Paul continually urges Timothy to guard his own soul while leading others.

3. The Crescendo of the Letter (Last Week’s Passage Review)
 - a. Paul reflects on:
 - i. His conversion encounter with Jesus.
 - ii. The coming return of King Jesus.
 - b. Between these realities we are called to:
 - i. *Pursue* righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.
 - ii. *Fight* the good fight—faith is active, not passive.

4. Today’s Text: A Spirit-Inspired “Rabbit Trail”
 - a. 1 Timothy 6:17–19
 - i. Paul’s ADD-style pastoral moment – an “Oh, by the way!” that truly matters.
 - ii. Though it feels like a tangent, it is deeply important and Spirit-inspired.

5. Core Warning: Misguided Worship & Misuse of Wealth
 - a. Paul circles back to covetousness – the desire that turns inward and puts self at the center.
 - b. Misguided worship collapses under its own weight.
 - c. Money isn’t evil – but the *love* of money is spiritually lethal
 - d. Wealth can shift worship from God to self if not stewarded wisely.

6. Perspective Check: Who Is “Rich”?
 - a. Biblical “rich” refers broadly to anyone with:
 - i. Healthcare

- ii. Reliable transportation
 - iii. Utilities
 - iv. Savings/investments
 - v. Subscriptions, hobbies, and entertainment
- b. If yes to any: You are among the world's wealthiest.
- c. Awareness leads to responsibility, not guilt.

7. The Command: If You Are Rich – Be Rich!

- a. Paul gives five instructions for the wealthy Jesus follower:
- i. Be rich in doing what is good
 - 1. Moral responsibility to ensure resources align with God's standards.
 - 2. Evaluate where money is invested – avoid supporting exploitation.
 - ii. Be rich in good works
 - 1. "To be rich" signifies an ongoing lifestyle, not isolated acts.
 - 2. Be responsive to Holy Spirit promptings.
 - 3. Live with an abundant posture toward good deeds.
 - iii. Be generous and willing to share
 - 1. Wealth does not naturally lead to generosity – often the opposite.
 - 2. Intentional generosity resists cultural individualism.
 - iv. Store up treasure for the coming age
 - 1. Earthly wealth is temporary; eternal treasure is lasting.
 - 2. Generosity lays a foundation for eternity *and* strengthens life now.
 - v. Take hold of what is truly life
 - 1. Generosity loosens the grip of greed.
 - 2. Worship realigns; joy increases; meaning deepens.
 - 3. True life is found when our resources point us to the Source.

8. Generosity as Worship

- a. God is not a tax collector; He richly provides all things to enjoy.
- b. The goal is not guilt – but cheerful generosity.
- c. If you can't give cheerfully to the church, give cheerfully somewhere.
- d. Practical starting points:
 - i. Choose a percentage before anything else.
 - ii. Adjust lifestyle if needed – release 3%, 5%, 10%, or more.
 - iii. None of us are too broke to be generous; in fact some are too broke *not* to be.

9. Thanksgiving & the Focus of our Worship

- a. A season to evaluate whether worship has drifted from God to self.
- b. Generosity is the fruit of gratitude.
- c. Wealth is a blessing when leveraged for eternal impact.

10. Final Charge to Timothy (and to Us)

a. 1 Timothy 6:20–21

- i. *Guard* what has been entrusted.
- ii. Avoid empty speech and senseless knowledge - “vain jangling.”
- iii. Stay centered on the gospel of grace.
- iv. Keep pushing the gospel forward with all you’ve got.