**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.