



STAY THE COURSE



1 Timothy 6:11-16

How Long Are You in For?

- ▶ Pastor's leaving annually is estimated at 432,000
- ▶ Christianity:
 - ▶ According to George Barna 2011 percentages
 - ▶ Since 1990 church attendance down 1% annually
 - ▶ Estimated 325,000,000 people just in the U.S. (3rd largest nation)
 - ▶ $3,250,000 \times 25 \text{ years} = 81,250,000$ people in the U.S. who no longer attend a church
- ▶ Why are people not staying?
- ▶ What has shifted in our priorities to cause us to leave?
- ▶ What then are we following?



What Do You Love?

- ▶ Paul's exhortation to Timothy based upon seeing the end goal...
- ▶ Where we deviate and get off track is focusing upon loving the wrong things...Deuteronomy 28:14; Proverbs 4:27 (remove thy foot from evil)



How Do We Stay The Course

- ▶ But you – a general statement as an attention getter to separate from a crowd
- ▶ Timothy – insert name to personalize it; identifier of who you are, what makes you tick, how we are built (personality, staying power)
- ▶ Man of God – understand the emphasis is not on the gender but upon the Creator as we are subordinate to Him...He sustains us



How Do We Stay The Course

▶ Run from...

- ▶ Not walk but keep running in order not to be caught; run towards a goal or end that fulfills its purpose (Isaiah 40:31; Hebrews 12:1)
- ▶ Running from things that would cause a downward spiral in our lives

▶ Pursue...

- ▶ Go after with fervor/intensity/passion those things that lead developing character and spiritual maturity:
 - ▶ Righteousness, godly life style, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness (Galatians 6)
- ▶ **“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” Thomas A. Edison**

