

Fight the Good Fight – 1 Timothy 1:18-20

Jeremiah Shawver, Youth Pastor - December 31, 2023

1 Timothy 1:18–20 ¹⁸ Timothy, my son, I am giving you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies previously made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and have shipwrecked their faith. ²⁰ Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

- **The Instruction of Paul**

1 Timothy 1:2–3 ² To Timothy, my true son in the faith. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³ As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine

- **What is the Instruction?**

- According to Prophecy
- For the endurance of Timothy

1 Timothy 6:11–12 ¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- **Qualities of Those Who Endure**

- Faith
- A Good Conscience

1 Timothy 1:5–6 ⁵ Now the goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. ⁶ Some have departed from these and turned aside to fruitless discussion.

- **Qualities of Those Who Falter**

- Reject a Good Conscience

1 Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, ² through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared. ³ They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods that God created to be received with gratitude by those who believe and know the truth.

- Shipwreck their faith

“It is when people are determined to live in unrighteousness that they suppress the truth. So if we disregard the voice of conscience, allowing sin to remain unconfessed and unforsaken, our faith will not long survive. Anybody whose conscience has been so manipulated as to be rendered insensitive is in a very dangerous condition, wide open to the deceptions of the devil.” - John Stott.

- Examples of shipwrecked faith
 - Hymenaeus

2 Timothy 2:15–19 ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who engage in it will produce even more godlessness, ¹⁷ and their teaching will spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are among them. ¹⁸ They have departed from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and are ruining the faith of some. ¹⁹ Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, bearing this inscription: **The Lord knows those who are his**, and let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness.

- Alexander

See - Acts 19:24–41

• Paul's Response

- Handed over to Satan so they can learn to not blaspheme
- Handed over – final step of Church discipline.

1 Corinthians 5:1–10 ¹ It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and the kind of sexual immorality that is not even tolerated among the Gentiles—a man is sleeping with his father's wife. ² And you are arrogant! Shouldn't you be filled with grief and remove from your congregation the one who did this? ³ Even though I am absent in the body, I am present in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who has been doing such a thing. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus, and I am with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ hand that one over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. ⁶ Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new unleavened batch, as indeed you are. For Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore, let us observe the feast, not with old leaven or with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. ⁹ I wrote to you in a letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ I did not mean the immoral people of this world or the greedy and swindlers or idolaters; otherwise you would have to leave the world.

Matthew 18:15–17 ¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ But if he won't listen, take one or two others with you, so that **by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established.** ¹⁷ If he doesn't pay attention to them, tell the church. If he doesn't pay attention even to the church, let him be like a Gentile and a tax collector to you.

2 Thessalonians 3:14 ¹⁴ If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take note of that person; don't associate with him, so that he may be ashamed.

• So What?

- Fight the Good Fight
 - Focus on the faith.
 - Be careful how you walk.