

January 21, 2024
Dr. Jay Robertson

Series: "Foundations of Christian Ministry"
Sermon: "Fight the Good Fight" Part 2
Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:18-20
Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

Introduction

- A. In 1 Timothy Paul gets right after it. False teachers were corrupting God's Word by focusing on myths and endless genealogies which resulted in questions rather than strengthening their faith.
- B. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).
- C. We must not get this wrong. We are saved by grace to be the church of the living God.
- D. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1:15).
- E. When we come to Christ and are converted, we can no longer rejoice in our sin.
- F. "Be killing sin or sin will be killing you" (John Owen).
- G. False teaching destroys churches, families, individuals, and nations.
- H. Big Idea: We must fight the good fight for sound doctrine by holding onto faith and by maintaining a good conscience.

I. What Is the Good Fight? (1:18)

- A. "Command"—A military order, not a suggestion.
- B. "Entrust"—Committing something of value to another. The Word of God is valuable.
- C. "In accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you"—This statement refers to Timothy's ordination to gospel ministry.
- D. "Do not neglect the gift within you, which was given to you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the council of elders" (1 Timothy 4:14).
- E. Philippians 2:19-22
- F. "That by them you may fight the good fight"—Fight the noble fight, the excellent fight, the virtuous fight.
- G. The good fight is the fight for sound theology. (1:19—"the faith")
- H. We are to fight for the body of revealed truth in the Bible. We are to defend the doctrines which are essential to the Christian faith.
- I. We must fight for the inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture, salvation through Christ alone, justification by grace through faith alone, the Trinity, and the deity and humanity of Christ.
- J. There has never been a time when God's people were not in danger of falling into error.
- K. Perennial Challenges: What is the Word of God? Who is Jesus Christ? What is the way of salvation?
- L. Current Challenges: man and woman, gender, sexuality, and marriage, holiness, righteousness, the judgment, heaven and hell, grace and mercy.
- M. "The church can't stop biblically teaching about sexuality and gender because the world won't stop talking about it. When the world is screaming about something and the church is silent, then a whole generation only hears one worldview. If the Bible speaks, the church must speak" (Shane Pruitt).
- N. "Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12).
- O. "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you exhorting that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 3).

II. How Do We Fight the Good Fight? (1:19)

- A. "Keeping faith"—Arming yourself with faith.
- B. Faith occurs 142 times in the writings of Paul and 33 times in the Pastoral Epistles.

- C. "Keeping faith" refers to the personal act of believing.
- D. "And a good conscience"—A conscience not loaded down with guilt. A good conscience is the result of a pure life.
- E. "Conscience is a God-given device in every human mind that reacts to that person's behavior. It either accuses or excuses (Rom. 2:14-15). Its purpose is to warn the person of the fact that he is sinning" (John MacArthur).
- F. What happens when "professing" Christians stop believing and live contrary to the Bible?
- G. "Which some, having rejected, suffered shipwreck in regard to the faith"—Paul named two false teachers who had "suffered shipwreck in regard to the faith." They had stopped believing the promises of God and living a life of purity because they had rejected the substance and content of biblical faith.
- H. If you persist in your sin and do not repent of it and turn from it, you demonstrate that you have never been saved.
- I. "They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they were of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be manifested that they all are not of us" (1 John 2:19).
- J. How do we fight the good fight? We trust In Christ and the promises of God, we live in accordance with the Word of God, and we study and know our Bibles.

III. Who Should We Fight? (1:20)

- A. False teachers like Hymenaeus and Alexander.
- B. In this verse we see there was still hope for them. Paul knew it was possible to be forgiven of blasphemy as well as saved from a shipwreck.
- C. "Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan"—Refers to church discipline. (1 Corinthians 5:5) The goal of church discipline is repentance of sin and restoration to fellowship.
- D. "So that they will be taught not to blaspheme"—The idea here is repentance and restoration.
- E. They were not allowed to teach and participate as members of the church.
- F. We must fight the good fight of the faith by confronting false teachers. (Titus 3:9-11)

Conclusion

- A. Big Idea: We must fight the good fight for sound doctrine by holding onto faith and by maintaining a good conscience.
- B. Are you trusting God's promises and obeying God's commands?
- C. Are you studying the Bible faithfully? What's your plan?
(2 Timothy 2:15)
- D. Are you saved? Have you been born again?
- E. The Gospel Definition