

Fight the Good Fight
1 Timothy 6:11-17 (Week 19) 03/08/2026
Rules of Engagement

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:11-16)

Introduction and Review

- In case you missed it, we're **involved in an armed conflict (war) with Iran.**
- And as with any armed conflict, the United States has **rules of engagement.**
- According to the **Marine Corps...**

US Rules of Engagement are directives issued by military authorities that delineate the circumstances, limitations, and conditions under which U.S. forces initiate or continue combat engagements. They align with international law, aiming to minimize civilian casualties, prevent fratricide, and fulfill political objectives. (US Marine Corps)

- Now why do I mention **rules of engagement?**
- **Well, because as Christians, we to face combat of a different kind.**
- Not a **physical battle where lives can be lost.**
- But a **spiritual battle**, where the stakes are even higher.
- And where, **in a very real sense**, we are soldiers.
- In fact, in **2 Timothy**, Paul writes...

³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:3)

- And as soldiers of Christ, **like those who engage in a military war**, we too are **given rules of engagement**, seven of which are listed in our passage for today.
- These rules will help Timothy, and every **good soldier of Jesus Christ**,
- to **“fight the good fight of the faith”.**
- **And the first rule of engagement involves avoiding danger.**
- Good soldiers don't knowingly and carelessly **walk into minefields.**
- So, Paul gives Timothy an **order to make a tactical withdrawal.**

- He must, we must...

1. Flee What is Sinful

- Verse 11 begins...

11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. (1 Timothy 6:11)

- **These things** refer to the sinful words, deeds and influence of the **false teachers** that we looked at **last week in the preceding verses of chapter 6**.
- And beginning in verse 3, we find that at the heart of their wickedness was their...

3 ...different doctrine [that] does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, (1 Timothy 6:3)

- Basically, these men were teaching things that did not agree with **the word of God**.
- In **Chapter 4** Paul calls it the **teaching (or doctrine) of demons**.
- And in **Chapter 6 verse 4**, he goes on to describe the character of these **false teachers**.
- **They were...**

4 ...puffed up with conceit and understands nothing (1 Timothy 6:4)

- They were **arrogant and ignorant**. And they had...

4 ...an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, (1 Timothy 6:4)

- They enjoyed fighting/arguing about all the wrong things.
- And this led to a **corrupting influence on the church, producing**

4 ...envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction (fighting) among people (1 Timothy 6:4-5)

- Paul then describes the people involved in these fights... **They are..**

5 ...people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, (1 Timothy 6:5)

- Because of their **depraved minds** they were no longer willing to receive the truth.
- And when truth disappears falsehood reigns, **and this was show by their...**

imagining that godliness is a means of (financial) gain.

- Apparently, having rejected the truth, that...

6 ...godliness with contentment is great gain, (1 Timothy 6:6)

- And instead sought their gain in wealth... They...

Desired to be rich, they... fell into temptation,

And their

harmful desires plunged them and others into ruin and destruction.

- They had **no love for God or man**

And so they fell in love with money and succumbed to all kinds of evil.

Which ultimately caused some to wander way from the faith

- Not a pretty picture, and so Paul says to Timothy...

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. (1 Timothy 6:11)

- Timothy, your words, deeds and your influence on the church must be different.
- You **must look and act nothing like these false teachers.**
- **You must flee all of their sinful nonsense.**

- And that doesn't mean running away and letting them have the church.
- Too often when **false teachers** rear their ugly heads,
- It's the **true believers who literally flee**, who don't put up a fight.
- But Timothy and **all good soldiers of Jesus Christ**, must flee what is sinful...
- While at the same time, fighting the good fight of faith.

- And how is Timothy (or how are we), while continuing to fight,
- How are we to **flee the sin that so easily besets us.**
- Well, I think Paul gives us two answers to this question.
- The second is found in our next point,
- While the first is found in **the fact that Paul addresses** Timothy as a...

man of God

- This title is given to only a few men in the **Old Testament**,
- It's reserved almost exclusively for **great heroes of the faith**,
- Men like Moses, Samuel, David, Elijah, and Elisha.
- Like Timothy and like us these men faced **false teachers and great temptation.**
- And even though they didn't always **flee sin as they should.**
- They inevitably, **repented, returned to God and continued fighting the good fight.**
- And Paul is saying to **Timothy and to us.**
- Like those great **men of God** before us,
- We must be different from **the world, including these sinful false teachers**
- And the **only way we can accomplish** that is **by being men and women of God.**
- We belong to God, and even if at times we fail, even if we fall, **God will not abandon us.**
- God will give us the strength and power to flee what is sinful.

- As Paul wrote to the **Corinthians...**

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

- So, as we fight the good fight,
- **Rule 1** is to flee what is sinful, do not let yourself be caught up in sin of any kind.
- Turn to the Lord and ask him for the strength to overcome temptation.
- Cry out to God for a way of escape that you,
- Like Joseph with Potiphar's wife, **can run for your spiritual life.**
- Because the surest way to **ineffectiveness** as a **soldier of Jesus Christ,**
- **The way to be sidelined from the battle is to give in to sin.**
- **So, as a men and women of God you must FIRST Flee what is sinful.**
- But there's more to fighting the good fight than fleeing sin.
- We might escape one temptation, **while running smack dab into another.**
- We might avoid the sin of loving money, while running headlong into the sin of pride.
- Look at me, I am a much better Christian than that guy,
- **Instead of having a big house and a new car,** I give to missions and I drive a 20-year-old junker.
- And so, along with or as part of being a man of God, **Paul tells Timothy to do more than retreat.**
- **Yes,** we must flee sin but at the same time we **must (2nd rule of engagement) ...**

2. Pursue What is Godly

- **Verse 11 continues...**

11 ...Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. (1 Timothy 6:11)

- The Christian needs to know both what to **run from** and what to **run towards.**
- Here Paul gives the man of God **six things to pursue.**
- In a very real way these godly pursuits, along with fleeing sin, **prepare us to fight the good fight.**
- It's like training, **these are the things** you should be **working on** as you **prepare for the fight.**
- **First is Righteousness** which refers **both** to our standing before God,
- and our actions in the world.
- **Through Jesus Christ we are counted righteous before God**
- But we must also live righteously.
- Fleeing sin as well as doing what is right in our **homes, our work our church,**
- **and everywhere else.**

- **Second is Godliness**, as we talked about last week,
- **It has to do with both reverence before God**, and how we live our lives before men,
- and like righteousness Godliness comes through Christ alone.
- **He is the mystery of Godliness.**
- And we must both trust in him to bring about our Godliness and, as Paul said in Chapter 4...
- We must, you must...

7 ...train yourself for godliness; (1 Timothy 4:7)

- We seek to live in obedience to God that we might become more like him, **more godly**.
- So, we are to **pursue righteousness and godliness**.
- And Paul then adds the pursuit of...
- **Faith**
- If we are going to fight the good fight of faith, then we better be people of faith.
- People who put their complete trust not in themselves but in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We must be God dependent, not self-dependent people.
- And along with **faith we must pursue...**
- **Love (agape)**
- If we're going to fight for the faith in the right way, **we must be loving people**.
- We must **love God (joyfully living in obedience to Him)**
- And we must **love people, even those who stand against our faith**,
- We must conquer not with the sword but **with love**.
- And to do that we must have **steadfastness or endurance**.
- You have to hang in there.
- **You have** persevere, especially in difficult times.
- And finally, we must pursue **Gentleness**.
- **Now gentleness is not usually considered a desirable quality in a soldier**.
- The poster at the army recruiting office does not say, "We're looking for a few gentle men."
- But gentleness has great value in the fight for the faith,
- Even and especially when dealing with false teachers and their demonic doctrine.
- In **2 Timothy**, Paul advises Timothy in

25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. (2 Timothy 2:25)

- Even though Timothy must stand **up to the false teachers**, he must not be harsh.
- He must be a good soldier, He and we must be, gentle men and women.
- So, when it comes to these things that we are to pursue...
- Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and steadfastness, and gentleness...
- The people of God must not be stagnant; **we must not be neutral**.
- **He must pursue these Godly qualities**.

- And how do we do that?
- Well, that word pursue means to seek after eagerly, earnestly, to endeavor to acquire even if it involves suffering.
- And so, we must be extremely diligent in pursuing what is godly.
- We must be willing to examine our lives, making sure we are growing in these areas.
- Getting rid of anything and everything that hinders our pursuit.
- Are you becoming **a more** righteous, godly, faith filled, loving steadfast gentle person.
- If the answer is yes then keep it up, for that is what is needed to fight the good fight of the faith.
- But if the answer is no, **then you must turn to the lord in repentance**,
- asking him to do whatever it takes to empower you to pursue these things that you might be good soldiers of Jesus Christ.
- **So that's the second rule of engagement.**
- **Pursue what is Godly.**
- And along with the **First, Paul has given us rules for flight and pursuit.**
- Next, he gives us **the actual command to engage in combat**...

3. **Fight for the Faith**

- **Verse 11** begins with the **heart of this passage** and really the theme of this letter...

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith.... (1 Timothy 6:12)

- Now notice **what we are fighting** for, it's a **fight of "the faith"**. And what is "the faith"?
- **Well, it has to do with what we have faith in, what we believe in.**
- **This is clearly seen in the context of this letter where the faith is set in contrast to the different doctrine of the false teachers.**
- So, this command is to fight against false different doctrine
- and fight for **the sound doctrine of the Christian faith.**
- What Paul has **previously described as...**

³ ...the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, (1 Timothy 6:3)

- The faith would include the doctrine about salvation in Christ that was taught by the apostles and is recorded in the pages of the New Testament.
- So, we are to **fight for "the faith"**. And how are we to do that?
- Well, I think the word **good** gives us a clue, it points back to what we have just seen in **verse 11**.
- There we are told to flee sin and pursue what is godly
- This is good, and if we do this then we can fight the good fight for the faith.
- **Verses 11 and 12** bring together **two things that must never be separated.**
- **Verse 12** is about **the faith**, what we believe, **Christian doctrine**,
- whereas **verse 11** is about how we live **the Christian life**.

- Life (how we live, fleeing sin and pursuing godliness)
- and doctrine (the faith, what we believe) ...
- These two are like bread and butter, cookies and milk, or peas and carrots.
- **They go together.**
- In fact, you cannot have one without the other.
- **Sound doctrine** without a godly life **is dead religion.**
- And a **godly life** without the guidance of doctrine cannot last long.
- But put a **godly life together with sound doctrine**, and you **get authentic Christianity.**
- And just as you **must flee sin and pursue a godly life.**
- You must **fight for the faith.**
- **Paul's point is**, sound doctrine does not **preserve itself**, it must be defended.
- The word Paul uses for **fighting** is the Greek word for **struggle (agō-ni-zō).**
- Where we get our word **agony**, the fight is not easy, **it is a struggle**,
- There may be casualties, there may be suffering.
- This **word sometimes** refers to a **boxing match or a wrestling tournament.**
- But it can also **have a military sense.**
- That's what we saw back in **Chapter 1** where Paul writes...

18 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, (1 Timothy 1:18)

- So Timothy & all believers are to wage the good warfare.
- We are to fight the good fight of faith.
- There are times when Christians must **fight for what they believe.**
- Not that we are belligerent, or harsh or vicious, of course.
- Paul has just told Timothy to "**pursue righteousness, godliness, love & gentleness**".
- So, we **are not to fight like the apostle Peter** in the **garden of Gethsemane**,
- loping off ears or heads.
- But there is a fight to be fought, and every good loyal soldier in Christ's army must fight it.
- In the novel **Excalibur**, Bernard Cornwell writes that

A man should love peace, but, if he cannot fight with all his heart, then he will not have peace. (Bernard Cornwell)

- An army which lacks **the courage to fight must either surrender or be defeated.**
- It is never **pleasant to fight (it can be agony)** but there are some things worth fighting for.
- And notice Paul calls our fight...

good

- And what makes a fight good is a good cause, **and we have the best of all causes.**

- We fight for **the faith**.
- We fight for **the honor and glory of God**.
- **We fight for the truth manifested in Jesus Christ**.
- And **we are fighting for the souls of men, women and children**.
- And our weapon is the sword of the spirit, the word of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We've **received the gospel** and we must proclaim and defend the gospel.
- We must fight against **false teaching, different doctrine**, in all its demonic forms.
- And we must fight for what is true, **for sound doctrine**.
- We fight for the **deity of Jesus Christ**, maintaining that He is fully God as well as fully human.
- We fight for the **depravity of humanity**, maintaining that persons is born in sin and misery.
- We fight for the **holiness and justice of God**,
- maintaining that God will judge the world in righteousness.
- We fight for the **efficacy of the substitutionary atonement**,
- maintaining that Christ died on the cross in the place of sinners.
- We fight for the **bodily resurrection**, maintaining that Jesus Christ is the risen Lord.
- And more...
- The fight for such truths **is the good fight of the faith**.
- And as we fight for the faith we should be aware that our goal is not to destroy our opponents but to help them see **the truth and receive/believe "the faith"**.
- Again in **2 Timothy** Paul advises Timothy in...

²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. (fight with gentleness so that) God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, (2 Timothy 2:25)

- We fight not to destroy or subdue our opponents.
- We fight as a means for God to open hearts and grant **repentance as he leads people to the knowledge of the truth, THE FAITH**.
- And I would add this warning to my fellow **political conservatives, you know who you are...**
- I would encourage you to **vote for the party or person** that best reflects your personal and hopefully Biblical values, to vote your faith.
- However, be very, very careful not to confuse **political or cultural issues** with **the faith**.
- As believers, we are not called to fight for a particular political agenda.
- In fact, even if there is **some crossover** between a certain political agenda and the faith.
- Do not fight in the name **of a political party**, fight in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Identify yourself with Jesus and his Church,
- not any other group no matter how much **you might agree with them politically!**
- Because if we identify ourselves with a political party (or other group),
- Then we get all their baggage (past present and future), and that is a lot of baggage to carry,
- most of which has absolutely nothing to **do with THE FAITH**.

- OK, **So, rule 3, Fight for the Faith.**
- And no sooner has Paul called us into the fight,
- than he looks forward to the end of the war entirely. **Rule 4...**

4. **Seize the Victory**

- **Verse 12** continues...

Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called

- That phrase **Take hold** is one word in the Greek and it means to **seize to grab, lay hold of.**
- And **eternal life** is the prize at the end of the fight.
- To the victor belongs the spoils, and the spoils of the fight for the faith **is eternal life.**
- Now Timothy received eternal life when he first came to Jesus Christ in faith.
- Every Christian does.
- Eternal life is God's free gift to everyone who comes to him,
- trusting Jesus Christ and asking for forgiveness of sins.
- And why did Timothy (or why does anyone) come to Christ and receive eternal life?
- Well, because **we're called.**

Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called

- As Paul wrote to the Corinthians...

⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9)

- The point is, it was God who called Timothy,
- and it is God who calls us to eternal life through Jesus Christ.
- As **Jesus Himself said...**

⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him (or calls him). (John 6:44)

- Jesus says he will give eternal life to those God draws/calls to him.
- So you might say that God has recruited Timothy and all believers to be soldiers of Jesus Christ.
- And to this call, to God's recruiting, Timothy had answered when he...

made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses

- In response to God's call on his life Timothy made a public confession of his faith.
- **This probably took place at this his baptism.**
- So, Paul tells Timothy to

¹² ...Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1 Timothy 6:12)

- And why is this important **as we fight the good fight.**
- Well, let me give a few reasons.
- **First**, as we fight we can always know that victory is assured.
- That we, who've been called/recruited by God,
- and who have accepted his call, are on his side in this fight.
- We will be victorious; we will receive **eternal life. So, fight on!**
- **Second**,
- I think Paul wants to remind Timothy that he already **enlisted in Christ's army.**
- With **his good confession** in the presence of many witnesses, **he accepted God's call.**
- He gave his life to Christ, he enlisted in God's army,
- and therefore **as a soldier of Christ**, he must continue to fight for the faith in Jesus Christ.
- **And finally**,
- Even though Timothy was called and even though he made a confession of his faith,
- which means he is assured of eternal life.
- He still needed to **seize it.**
- He needed to appropriate it, to **grasp it and hang on to it for all he was worth.**
- Because **eternal life** does not begin when you die.
- **It begins when you give your life to Jesus Christ.**
- **Eternal life** is for now as well as later.
- Christians **not only get life in the presence God throughout all eternity.**
- Where David says...

11 ...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalms 16:11)

- but we get a **taste right now**, because as Jesus said...

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent (John 17:3)

- Eternal life is not a place we are going to when we die,
- It is a person that **we grow in relationship with** beginning at our conversion.
- So, eternal life is "both a **present possession** and a **future hope.**"
- And as we take hold of our eternal life, **as we experience God's presence in our lives today.**
- We also experience **his power to fight the good fight of faith.**
- **So, knowing victory is assured,**
- **knowing that we've already committed ourselves to Christ's army,**
- **and we are experiencing our eternal life (the presence of God in our lives today)**
- This should inspire and empower us **to fight the good fight of faith.**
- So, the fourth rule of engagement is to **Seize the Victory.**

- And this is followed by a charge to...

5. Keep the Faith

- Verses 13 and 14...

¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach... (1 Timothy 6:13-14)

- So, Paul gives Timothy a charge to **keep the commandment**... and we will get to that shortly.
- But first, I want to point out that his charge is given in the **presence of two great witnesses**.
- God the Father and God the Son.

in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession,

- By calling the Father and the Son as witnesses,
- Paul wanted to **encourage Timothy**, not **intimidate him**.
- He wanted Timothy to understand that he was **not alone in this fight**,
- He not only had **fellow soldiers like Paul**,
- he also had the backing of **his commander and Chief**, The Sovereign Lord...

who gives life to all things

- God preserves and maintains life, and he would sustain Timothy throughout his fight for the faith.
- Timothy was also to be strengthened and encouraged **not only by Christ's presence** in his life...
- but by **his example** – It was Jesus...

who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, (1 Timothy 6:13)

- Timothy made a confession of faith before loving witnesses,
- But Jesus Christ made his confession before Pontius Pilate,
- the Roman governor of Judea who ordered his execution.
- Jesus appeared before him to testify that he was the Messiah.
- Pilate asked him a simple question...

³³ ...“Are you the King of the Jews?” (John 18:33)

- Jesus answered by saying,

³⁷ ...“You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” (John 18:37)

- This was Jesus' **good confession with words**.
- He was confessing **himself as Lord**.

- And this is the **confession that every Christian** must make at their conversion.
- **Jesus is Lord.**
- But Jesus not only said the words, **he lived them out.**
- His **good confession** was made in deed **as well as word.**
- It included **his work on the cross**, the way he “**suffered under Pontius Pilate.**”
- Thus, Calvin explains that...

Christ made his confession before Pilate not in many words but in reality, that is by His voluntary submission to death. . . . For He ratified [his confession] with His own blood and with the sacrifice of His death better than with any words. (John Calvin)

- So, knowing God is the Sovereign Life Giver.
- And that Jesus has courageously given his confession of the faith,
- That he is LORD!
- **And that Jesus has in a very real sense fought the good fight of the faith to the end.**
- Paul’s hope is to give Timothy, **and every other soldier of the cross,**
- the courage to receive this awesome charge...

¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach... (1 Timothy 6:14)

- In this context the **commandment** refers to what has gone before.
- To fleeing sin and pursuing godliness.
- To fighting for the faith.
- To taking hold of his eternal life.
- As a good soldier Timothy must **obey these commands**, we must, **keep the commandment.**
- Or put another way **he must live out his faith.**
- He must **do as Paul said he did, he writes...**

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7)

- And this just makes sense, if we’re going to fight for the faith, we must live out our faith.
- We must keep the commandment.
- Otherwise, the commandment (the faith) will become **stained, reproached by our unwillingness and inability to keep it.**
- Why should we listen to you, you talk about your faith, you fight for the faith.
- but your life is no different than mine, **in fact it’s worse.**
- Therefore, we must live out our faith, we must live in obedience to the Lord Jesus.
- We must be righteous, godly, loving, steadfast, gentle FAITH FILLED PEOPLE.
- Then and only then will we be able to Fight the good fight of Faith.
- So, the **fifth rule of engagement is to Keep the Faith.**

- Now the sixth rule adds to that... we must keep the faith, we must...

6 Persevere Until Jesus Arrives

- Beginning in **verse 14**, Paul charges Timothy...

14 to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will display at the proper time... (1 Timothy 6:14-15)

- Timothy must, keep the faith!
- And we must keep fighting for the faith until the appearing of the Lord Jesus...
- Knowing that the commander and chief is coming, is meant to give us hope as we fight.
- **Again, fighting can be agony, but we don't have to fight forever.**
- One Day we are assured, Jesus will appear.
- That word "**appearing**," is the Greek (**epiphaneia**), the epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **The personal, visible, triumphant return of Jesus Christ** is a certainty.
- After Jesus ascended, while the apostles stood gazing confusedly into the heavens,
- angels appeared...

11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

- **God has guaranteed the physical return of Jesus Christ.**
- And when he returns, **on that day**, he will **finish the good fight**, he will set all things right.
- He will usher in a **new kingdom where fighting will be no more.**
- And when will that day come?
- Well Paul tells Timothy... **the appearing of the Lord Jesus will be displayed...**

at the proper time

- Paul doesn't know the time, **only God knows** when Christ will return, **and that's his business.**
- The Bible repeatedly **warns Christians** not to speculate about when Jesus will come again.
- This was the **plain teaching of Jesus himself.**

36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. (Matthew 24:36)

- But some have said, "maybe you can't know the day or the hour, but you can know the month, or the year!" **Nonsense.**
- When Jesus said "day" and "hour," he was not **speaking literally, but figuratively,**
- and his point was that we **cannot know the time of his return at all.**

- As he went on to say,

44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (Matthew 24:44)

- God will bring about the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ in his own good time.
- And we can be assured that his timing is perfect, and we can't know when it is.
- So, we can't know when.
- but we can know (and this is what matters)
- that his return will bring total triumph for the people of God.
- Our King and commander has promised to come again before the final battle.
- **And achieve final lasting victory.**
- But in the meantime, however long it takes, **every soldier in God's army must take courage...**
- We must keep the faith and keep fighting for the faith.
- So, **the sixth rule of engagement** is to persevere until Jesus arrives.
- And that brings us to our final rule of engagement...

7. Glorify the Ultimate Victor

- Certain of Christ return and final victory...
- Paul burst into a short victory song....

...he (God) who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:15-16)

- If there were any doubts about God's ultimate victory, **this should put them to rest.**
- Because we are fighting for, **and in the power of,**
- The one who is far above and beyond everyone and everything else.
- He is **invincible**, the

blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords

- God is the absolute power over all that is, all that was, and all that will be.
- He is the only sovereign being inside or outside the entire universe.
- All powers and dominions are subject to him.
- He is **King of kings**, ruling over all the kings of the earth,
- including both the emperors of Rome and the **superpowers of modern times.**
- And he is **Lord of lords**, ruling over all the deities of world religion,
- including **Diana of the Ephesians and all the gods of this age.**
- God is to be **glorified** for the **invincibility** of his power.

God is also immortal

- The Roman emperors claimed to be immortal,
- **but God “alone has immortality”.**
- This doesn’t mean that nothing else will last forever.
- The **new heavens and the new earth will stand forever.**
- So will the **blessed angels, as well as human beings,**
- who are **destined to heaven or to hell for all eternity.**
- But only God has life in himself. As Jesus declared...

26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. (John 5:26)

- God alone is **immortal** in his very nature.
- Every other creature (or thing) was created by him and depends upon God for its existence.
- Therefore, God is to be glorified for the **immortality of his existence.**

Finally, God is invisible.

He “dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see”

- Here Paul speaks of the blinding, radiance that streams from the glory of God.
- Yet God himself remains invisible.
- **As he said to Moses,**

20 ... “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” (Exodus 33:20)

- God is to be **glorified for the invisibility of his unapproachable radiance.**
- God, our commander, is **invincible, immortal, invisible**, dwelling in unapproachable light.
- And yet, through Jesus Christ our great mediator, **we can come to him.**
- **We can trust him, we can honor and serve him.**
- We can live our lives for His glory by keeping the faith and fighting the good fight of the faith.
- Knowing that He will achieve the Ultimate Victory for HIS Glory and Our Good!
- **So, we’ve been given the rules of engagement...**
- Flee what is sinful, pursue what is good, fight for the faith, seize the victory, keep the faith,
- persevere until Jesus arrives and glorify the ultimate victor.
- The only question is, **will we on a daily basis, as we are faced with the challenges of life**
- **and those who oppose the Faith, the gospel, the sound words of Jesus Christ.**
- Will we step and obey these rules.
- Will we be men and women of God?
- Will we be **good soldiers of Jesus Christ?**
- Will we by the power of the Spirit **Fight the good fight of the Faith?**
- **I pray we will, Would you pray with me to that end!**