

Keep Fighting the Good Fight!

Scholarship Sunday – July 19, 2020

Assistant Pastor Karl M Nero - 1 Tim 1:18-19

In this Epistle (letter), the Apostle Paul is writing to Pastor Timothy, one of his “sons in the faith.” In Paul’s eyes, there was no one like Timothy to him (**Philippians 2:20**).

He was a young Pastor in the city of Ephesus. Paul left him with the instruction to fight against false teaching with the weapon on proper doctrine.

1) Carrying this Command – v 18 “Fight the Good Fight”

Paul entrusted Timothy to protect the house of God from being infiltrated with false doctrine. He commits the command to his care because he knows Timothy is trustworthy.

As a young man in the church there were some prophecies made concerning Timothy. Timothy was special and he needed to know that. He needed encouragement to Keep Fighting the Good Fight!

What does Fight the Good Fight mean? – A fight worth having. A Fight for the Faith, A Fight for the truths of God, A Fight for the Future of the Church.

Additional Application – Graduates, Ministry Directors, Saints we need to Fight right now! Now is the time to lean into the battle. Don’t give up! If you’re tired, sleep, but get back up tomorrow and fight!

2) Clinging to Christ – v 19a “keeping the faith” or “Cling to your faith in Christ” NLT

This answers **HOW** we **FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!** Examples from Scripture show us what Keep the Faith looks like:

Jabez prayed – **1 Chronicles 4:10** “Oh that You would bless me indeed...”

Jacob pleaded – **Genesis 32:26** – “I won’t let you go until you bless me.”

The woman with the issue of blood – **Luke 8:43-48** She pressed her way to Jesus and fell prostrate.

We Cling to Christ by any and every means necessary. Pray, Plead, Press, Prostrate...do what you have to in order to stay in His Presence.

Application – **Distractions and deception lead to defeat and destruction!** We need to stay focused on Jesus AND have the enemy in our periphery!

3) Cleaning Your Conscience – v19 “keep your conscience clear (clean)” NLT

Paul is telling Timothy that you can’t fight well with moral failure and compromise in your heart.

It’s a terrible way to live one way and lying through your teeth to protect your cover-up!

We fight well by confessing and keeping a short account of sin. **1 John 1:9**

When you IGNORE your CONSCIENCE, you INVITE a CRISIS – “which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.” – v19b

Application - God was wonderful things in store for us who fight well! **Jeremiah 29:11; 2 Peter 1:3** God equips us! **2 Corinthians 3:5; Romans 8:37**

Jesus wants us to take heart (HAVE COURAGE). He has already led the charge! **John 16:33b**