Fight the Good Fight of Faith 1 Timothy 6:11–16 Ken Lewis, Senior Pastor Lord's Day, August 6, 2017

**1 Timothy 1:18** 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,

#### Series Overview

6<sup>th</sup> – Fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:11-16)
13<sup>th</sup> – Stand against the schemes of the Devil (Eph. 6:10-20)
20<sup>th</sup> – Resist temptation (1 Cor. 10:11-14)
27<sup>th</sup> – Love not the World (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

**Big Idea:** To fight the good fight of faith we must use God's tactics and be inspired by God's majesty to endure.

# I. Tactics for the fight (6:11-13)

#### (1) Flee from sin (v. 11b)

- False teaching (v. 3)
- Divisive attitudes (vv. 4-5)
- Discontentment (vv. 6-8)
- Greediness (vv. 9-10)
- Sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18)
- Idolatry (1 Cor. 10:14)
- Youthful passions (2 Tim. 2:22)

# (2) Pursue godly character (v. 11c)

The key to mortifying fleshly lusts is to eliminate the emptiness within me and replace it with fullness; and we accomplish this by feasting on the gospel. As we perpetually feast on Christ and all of His blessings found in the gospel, we will find that our hunger for sin diminishes and the lies of lust simply lose their appeal. Hence, to the degree that I am full, I am free. Eyes do not rove, nor do fleshly lusts rule, when the heart is fat with the love of Jesus! And nothing so mortifies fleshly lust like satisfaction in Him.

# Milton Vincent – A Gospel Primer

- Righteousness Living in accordance with God's word.
- Godliness Living before God with reverence.
- Faith Living with a confident trust in God.
- Love Living a sacrificial life of love for God and man.
- Steadfastness Living with a victorious attitude as you endure.
- Gentleness Living with an attitude of meekness.

# (3) Fight for the faith (v. 12a)

• Fight to grow in your faith.

- Fight to use your faith as a weapon for attaining "eternal life" (v. 12).
- Fight to defend the Word of God (vv. 6:14, 20a)
- (4) Take hold of eternal life (v. 12b)

II. Inspiration to endure (6:13-16)

- (1) God gives life to all things (v. 13ab)
- (2) Christ's good confession (v. 13b)
- (3) Christ's return (v. 14)

**2 Timothy 4:1–2** I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

#### (4) God's majesty (vv. 15-16)

- > He is Sovereign (v. 15b)
- > He is eternal (v. 16a)
- > He is holy (v. 16b)
- > He is invisible (v. 16c)

Doxology (v. 16d)

**1 Timothy 1:17** To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen

Your Lord is not just after the success of your ministry; He is working to dethrone you as well. It is only when His throne is more important than yours that you will find joy in the hard and humbling task of gospel ministry. And His grace will not relent until our hearts have been fully captured by His glory.

Paul Tripp – Dangerous Calling, p. 104

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

#### **Benediction**

**2 Timothy 4:7–8** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.