

A WORTHY FIGHT

1 Timothy 1:18–20 | October 4, 2026

INTRODUCTION - We can often see danger around us before we recognize the danger developing within us. Timothy had to fight for the truth, but Paul warned him not to neglect his own heart and become a casualty in the battle.

BIG IDEA - Faithfulness requires us to fight for the truth while guarding our own lives.

1. THE C _____ — v. 18

Paul tells Timothy to “fight the good _____.”

- Timothy had been entrusted with God’s truth and was responsible to guard and pass it on (1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 2:2).
- Difficulty is not permission to abandon faithfulness; an open door and opposition can exist together (1 Cor. 16:9).
- We are not called to fight about everything, but some truths are worth defending (Jude 3).

2. THE C _____ — v. 19a

Timothy must keep faith and a good _____.

- The battle around us matters, but so does the battle within us (1 Tim. 4:16).
- Biblical Christianity does not separate right doctrine from a rightly ordered life (1 Tim. 1:5; Jas. 1:22).
- A conscience shaped by Scripture warns us when our lives move away from what we know is right (Acts 24:16).

3. THE C _____ — vv. 19b–20

Some rejected faith and conscience and suffered spiritual _____.

- Shipwreck rarely begins with the wreck; it begins when God’s warnings are pushed away (1 Tim. 1:19–20).
- Another believer’s failure should move us to take heed, not respond with pride or gossip (1 Cor. 10:12).
- Even severe biblical discipline is meant to correct and restore, not merely punish (Matt. 18:15; Gal. 6:1).

KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Timothy 1:18–20 • 1 Timothy 4:16 • 1 Corinthians 16:9 • Jude 3 • 1 Corinthians 10:12 • 2 Timothy 4:7

TAKE IT HOME

- Am I fighting battles God has actually called me to fight?
- What am I tolerating privately while trying to remain faithful publicly?
- Is there a warning from God’s Word or my conscience that I keep pushing away?

“We don’t fight our way into God’s grace. We fight because God’s grace has rescued us.”