

House Rules
Functioning as the Church
Week 14: Fighting and Faithfulness

Scripture

1 Timothy 6:11-16, 20-21

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

What were the reasons for Paul's writing?

- To confront false teachers (1 Timothy 1; 1 Timothy 6)
- To establish proper conduct (1 Timothy 2)
- To provide qualifications for church leadership (1 Timothy 3)
- To warn those abandoning the faith (1 Timothy 4:1-5)
- To care for the church, elders, and widows (1 Timothy 4:6-5:16)
- To instruct about conflict/confrontation (1 Timothy 5:1-2, 19-25)

Information (What They Need to Know)

Paul closes this letter to Timothy with two pieces of advice: **fight** and **be faithful**.

Fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:11-16)

Fight (Greek *to agonize*) means to struggle and strive through difficulty

- **Fight with NOW in mind**

1 Timothy 6:11 (ESV) But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

Pursue these things...

- **Righteousness** (abiding in a condition acceptable to God)
 - **Godliness** (reverence and respect for God demonstrated in our behavior)
 - **Faith** (God growing confidence in Himself)
 - **Love** (affection toward others)
 - **Steadfastness** (endurance in adversity)
 - **Gentleness** (a quiet strength)
- **Fight with LATER in mind**

1 Timothy 6:12 (ESV) 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...

“Earthly battles may be lost along the way, but in Christ we’ll win the eternal war.”

1 Timothy 6:15 (NLT) For, at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. **16** He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen.

Revelation 21:3 (NLT) I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

▪ **Be Faithful (1 Timothy 6:20-21)**

1 Timothy 6:20 (NLT) Timothy, guard what [*the truth*] God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge. **21** Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness. May God’s grace be with you all.

- The good news (gospel) had been entrusted to Timothy
- He was to remain in the truth, even when others were compromising it

Application (What They Need to Do)

I often pray the words from **The Valley of Vision**.

“A Disciple’s Renewal”

O MY SAVIOUR,

Help me.

I am so slow to learn,

so prone to forget,

so weak to climb;

I am in the foothills when I should be

on the heights;

I am pained by my graceless heart,

my prayerless days,

my poverty of love,

my wasted hours,

my unspent opportunities.

Make it my chiefest joy to study thee,
meditate on thee,
gaze on thee...
May I never seek in the creature
what can be found only in the Creator.