

Sermon Notes 8/14/22

## “Fight the Good Fight”

How can we fight the good fight of the faith?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ from an ungodly life.

1 Timothy 6:11a

1 Timothy 6:9-10

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

2. \_\_\_\_\_ a righteous life.

1 Timothy 6:11b

2 Timothy 2:22

Proverbs 15:9

3. \_\_\_\_\_ of eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:12

Colossians 3:1-2

1 Timothy 6:18-21



“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” 1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV)

# Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 14: August 14-21, 2022

1 Timothy 6:11-21

The Bible tells us to “fight the good fight” (1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7). And while we may not “wrestle against flesh and blood” (Eph. 6:12), we do face spiritual battles every day. The Bible describes our enemy as “a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.” By ourselves we are no match for Satan and his demons. But when we follow God’s plan, we can fight the good fight and win every time. In 1 Timothy 6:11-21, God gives us a winning strategy for fighting the good fight of the faith.

## Read 1 Timothy 6:11-21

1. What was Paul telling Timothy to run away from in verse 11?

When Paul wrote, “But you, man of God,” he was emphasizing the contrast between Timothy and the false teachers described in the previous verses. Timothy must flee from the ungodly behaviors of the false teachers. Many times, in spiritual warfare, running away is the best strategy. In addition to this passage, the Bible also tells us to flee from youthful lusts (2 Tim. 2:22), sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18), and idolatry (1 Cor. 10:14). Bryan Chapell and Kent Hughes write,

If we desire to be men and women of God, there are times we must show our back to evil and run as fast as our legs will take us in the other direction. Some who are reading this need to indulge in some sanctified flight!<sup>1</sup>

2. What did Paul tell Timothy to pursue in verse 11?

We see another contrast in verse 11. While there are things we must run away from, there are other things we must pursue with all our strength. The Lord loves those who pursue righteousness (Prov. 15:9). But He hates the feet that run rapidly to evil (Prov. 6:18).

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<sup>1</sup> R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1–2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 164.

3. What kind of fight did Paul tell Timothy urged to fight? (6:12)

The language in this verse is intense. We get our English word “agonize” from the Greek word for “fight.” C. Michael Moss observes,

The verb “fight” (*agōnizomai*) and the noun “fight” (*agōn*) are athletic metaphors carrying the idea of a struggle or a contest. The command here is a present imperative indicating that Paul is calling for Timothy to “keep on fighting” the good fight.<sup>2</sup>

4. What did Paul tell Timothy to take hold of in verse 12?

James Smith writes,

The gospel called Timothy to eternal life, even as it calls all of us to the same experience. From the moment of that call, we entered the contest or struggle. Today we have faith possession of that eternal life; but Paul here envisions the day when we will have full possession of the prize (Philippians 3:14).<sup>3</sup>

5. What is the “good confession” in this passage? (6:12-13)

6. When did Jesus make "the good confession"? (6:13)

7. What did Paul charge Timothy to do? (6:13-14)

Moss comments,

The call to “keep” this charge “without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ” would suggest that the commandment might well represent the commitment Timothy made at his baptism. This would fit the context of the “good confession” if it indeed refers to Timothy’s confession of Jesus as Messiah at his baptism.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 122.

<sup>3</sup> James Smith, *Pastoral Epistles Revisited* (Coppell, TX: lulu.com, 2017), 171.

<sup>4</sup> Moss, 124.

8. How did Paul describe God in verses 15-16?
9. Why should we put our hope in God rather than wealth? (6:17)
10. What command is given to those who are rich in verse 18?
11. How can we lay up treasures for ourselves in heaven? (6:18-19; Matt. 6:19-20)
12. What did Paul tell Timothy to guard in verse 20?

Paul entrusted Timothy with the sound doctrines of the Christian faith. Like Timothy, we must maintain and faithfully teach New Testament Christianity. Chapell and Hughes note,

If in our day the church is weakened and enfeebled by inattention to the deposit, if in our day Christian ethics are more and more melded into the world because of neglect of the deposit, if in our day the Christian faith is distorted by attempts to make it culturally relevant, we would not be the only losers, but also our children and their children. We must guard the deposit. The apostolic urgency has not diminished.<sup>5</sup>

13. How had some wandered away from the truth? (6:20-21)
14. In what way is the Christian life a fight?
15. Who has recently heard your confession of faith?
16. Which of God's attributes influence your worship the most?
17. Why do people tend to put their trust in wealth rather than God?
18. How can we prepare ourselves to flee from sinful temptations?
19. What will you pursue with all your heart this week?
20. How will you "take hold of eternal life" this week?

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<sup>5</sup> Hughes and Chapell, *1-2 Timothy and Titus*, 176.