

SERIES: 1 Timothy
Fight for the Gospel
1 Timothy 1:18-20

Fighting for the Gospel: We Are At War

- Throughout the New Testament, Paul uses military language to describe the Christian life.
- In light of God's gracious purposes, Paul gives Timothy one final charge: Fight for the gospel!

I. Fight the Good Fight By Remembering Your Calling (1:18)

- Timothy was to engage in battle for the sake of **truth**.
 - Paul had charged him to this task. (1 Tim. 1:18)
 - God had **gifted** him for this task. (2 Tim. 1:6)
 - The elders had commissioned him in his task. (1 Tim. 4:14)
 - The **church** had confirmed he was up to the task. (Acts 16:2)
- All Christians are spiritual soldiers who must fight for the gospel.
 - Christian soldiers do not **flirt** with sin. They flee from it. (1 Tim. 6:11-12)
 - Christian soldiers are willing to endure suffering. (2 Tim. 2:3)
 - Christian soldiers seek to please the Commander who enlisted them. (2 Tim. 2:4)
 - Christian soldiers must wear spiritual **armor**. (Eph. 6:11-20).
 - Christian soldiers must wield spiritual **weapons**. (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

II. Fight the Good Fight by Holding to Faith and a Good Conscience (1:19)

- We must fight for the gospel in our lives.
 - Hold on to the faith: We must embrace **healthy** doctrine.
 - Maintain a clear conscience: We must pursue a **holy** life.
- We must avoid shipwrecking the faith and hurting the reputation of Christ.
 - Christian teachers must be good **soldiers**.
 - Christian teachers must also be good **sailors**.

III. Fight the Good Fight to Avoid Spiritual Catastrophe (1:20)

- We must fight for the gospel in our churches.
- No one is immune to the temptation to **wander** from the gospel.
- Those who abandon the faith must be removed from the church.
 - **Excommunication**: Church discipline is necessary for church health:
 - These two men were cast out of the **church**...
 - To show that they were separated from **Christ**...
 - With the hope and prayer that they would **realize** their error...
 - And through God's discipline **return** to Christ.
 - **Exhortation**: Whatever you do, hold on to the gospel.
 - Only the gospel can unite the church.
 - Only the gospel can sustain God's people during difficult days.
 - Are you failing? Are you faltering? Are you fleeing? Or are you fighting?

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