

Fighting the Good Fight

1 Timothy 1:18-20

Introduction:

- Life is full of struggles
 1. Physical
 2. Relationships
 3. Personal issues
- Paul uses a metaphor of a soldier in commanding Timothy to fight the good fight.
 1. What are you fighting for in this life?
 2. Are you fighting the good fight?
 3. How do we make the fight a good one?

The boundaries – I will obey God's word (18,19a)

- What command (KJV – charge; NLT - instructions) is Paul entrusting to Timothy? (v. 18)
 1. Some think that it refers to the personal context (vv 3,4 – to instruct certain ones not to teach strange doctrines).
 2. Some think that it refers to the instruction in the rest of the letter to Timothy.
 3. A third option is to see the phrase, *that you fight the good fight*, not as a personal command for giving Timothy *this command*, but as the command itself. The Greek text allows for either one.
 - a. Purpose statement – *This command I entrust to you so that you fight the good fight.*
 - b. Clarifying statement – *This command I entrust to you: that you fight the good fight.*
- The means by which he was to fight the good fight were the prophecies that had been made about him.
 1. We are not told what these prophecies were.
 2. We do know that all prophecies were considered not the words of a man but of God (2 Pet 1:21)
 3. Thus the boundaries for the good fight is the prophecies.
- The Bible is the revelation of God's word to us (the definition of prophecy)
 1. Get to know God's word in a good way.
 - a. Learning sessions (Bible on tape)

- b. R_____ sessions (e.g. read the Bible in a year; read Genesis in 4 sessions – Gen 1-11; 12-23; 24-36; 27-50)
2. Get to know God's word in an in d_____ way.
 - a. S_____ a passage on your own
 - b. Study with others and discuss it
 - c. Go over sermon notes and read the Bible passages.
3. Make this a l_____ habit.

The battleground – I _____ God's word (19b,20)

●What makes the Christian life a good fight?

1. A g_____ conscience
 - a. The Holy Spirit u_____ our conscience to steer us.
 - b. It is possible to have f_____ guilt or even to have no guilt when you are guilty. – That is why knowing what God's word says is so important.
2. Keeping f_____
 - a. This can be translated keep faith_____.
 - b. The object of faithfulness is to God and His w_____.
 - c. If we are faithful to God's word, we will have a good conscience.

●Two examples of a wrong fight – Hymenaeus and Alexander

1. They rejected the f_____ after originally being in line with it – they probably began to teach strange doctrines.
2. They blasphemed (i.e. they called what was good, e_____)
3. They were handed over to S_____ by Paul – they were not allowed to be among any church until they repented.

●Are you fighting the good fight?

1. Are you struggling with temptation? Make it a good fight by living God's word in the struggle.
 - a. Matt 26:41 – Keep on p_____ so you don't fail.
 - b. 2 Tim 2:21 – R_____ from temptation and run after what's good.
2. Are you struggling in a relationship? Make it a good fight by living God's word in the struggle.
 - a. Matt 18:21,22 – F_____ those who have wronged you.
 - b. Rev 3:19 – R_____ if you have wronged someone.
 - c. Rom 12:18 – Do all you can to restore h_____.

Conclusion - Everyone is going to struggle through life. So why not make it a good fight by learning God's word and living by it?