

## Draft Summary

- This charge I entrust to you = command
- In accordance with the prophecies previously made about you = ministry calling and service
- wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience = spiritual warfare

## Possible Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to be in spiritual warfare? What does it mean to be a good soldier of Christ Jesus?
  - What does it mean to fight the good fight? How do we discern what is "good" to fight about?
  - How will you respond to the sermon? What are next steps?
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**Title:** Fight the Good Fight

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 1:18-2.0

## Introduction

Misperception: I want to live my life and be let alone.

Truth: We are in war - occurring everyday for our lives.

- you have a bullseye on your back.
- There is an enemy seeking actively to destroy.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

## Passage:

1 Timothy 1:18-20

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

## EXPOSITION

### Context of Passage:

1 Timothy

- Written to church that was previously planted by Paul.
- False teachers arose that added more requirements to the Gospel of Jesus.
  - Jesus + the Law.
- The Law: the purpose is to show our need for a Savior as we are sinners who are prone to break it.

1 Timothy 1:15-16

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

- The Gospel: you do not need to do anything to be accepted by God.
  - Saved by faith alone by grace alone through Christ alone.

1 Timothy 1:3

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,

### ***1 Timothy 1:18-19a***

***This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience.***

#### ***This charge***

- Command - not optional.

You are a soldier in warfare

Ephesians 6:11-12

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

#### ***Entrust***

- Committing something of value to another
  - ex: putting a deposit in a bank
- What entrusted? The Gospel of Jesus Christ

#### ***In accordance with the prophecies previously made about you***

- meaning = ordination (symbolic act recognizing someone for ministry)

2 Timothy 1:6-7

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Someone set aside for ministry

- God's explicit, visible sign and choice was not common (Jesus initial calling 12 disciples, Jesus calling Paul) but rather exceptional.
- Otherwise, God primarily speaks through the Bible (His Word).
- You are chosen in Christ.

John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

***that by them you may wage the good warfare,***

*Good*

- Meaning = virtuous, noble
- This implies not all warfare is good but there is bad warfare
  - Warfare not over essential doctrine is a bad fight.
  - No Biblical issue should not be fought with a contentious spirit.

1 Timothy 6:4

he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions,

What is good warfare?

- Defense of the essential doctrines of the Christian faith and sound theology
  - How determine?
- Category 1: Which are key to the Gospel truth
  - Deity of Jesus
  - Reality of the Trinity
  - Inerrancy of the Bible
  - Salvation through faith alone through grace alone through Christ alone
- Category 2: important for Christian life (distinguish among different denominations)
  - Charismatic gifts (speaking of tongues)
  - Infant/believer's baptism
- Category 3: may worship together but agreeably disagree
  - End times
  - Age of the earth
- Note: Category 2 or 3 may rise to Category 1 if assert that without such belief than do not believe they are a Christian.

Point: Always strive for unity among diversity (not uniformity)

Psalms 34:14b

seek peace and pursue it.

Ephesians 4:3

eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Corinthians 12:12

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Peter 3:15

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

### ***holding faith and a good conscience***

- how fight the good fight
  - Doctrine must be accompanied by godliness.
  - Godliness and truth must go hand in hand.
- How know on the right path?
  - You see God greater and greater while seeing ourselves less and less.
- People often teach wrong doctrine to accommodate their sin.

### **APPLICATION**

#### ***In regards to ministry, evaluate internal call and seek outside confirmation.***

- Inner: do you have a heartfelt yearning to see people to know Christ?
- Outside: seek godly counsel from others as to your gifting and appropriate opportunities.

#### ***In regards to fighting the good faith, is the unity of the body of Christ one of the doctrines we jealously guard?***

- Our zeal for the truth should not exceed our zeal for love
- We must pursue both Gospel doctrine and Gospel culture
  - Be full of grace and humility
- Delay in arriving in judgments but rather fully understand the context and treat others with respect.
- Humility: we should be humble in what we say and how we say things.
  - Humility is not the absence of strength.
- Book: "Finding the right hills to die on"

Isaiah 66:2

All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

***In regards to faith, come to Christ***

- Do you realize you are in spiritual warfare?
- Do you realize your need for a Savior?