

WAGE THE GOOD WARFARE: 1 Timothy 1:18-20

We must fight for the truth of the gospel—we must “wage the good warfare” (v.18c)

- **Philippians 2:25** “I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need...”
- **Philemon 1:1-2** “Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:”
- **2 Corinthians 6:4-7** “...as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left...”
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...”
- **1 Peter 2:11** “Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.”
- **James 4:1** “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?”
- **Romans 13:12** “The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”
- **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.”
- **1 Timothy 6:10-12** “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 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.”
- **1 Corinthians 16:13-14** (military terms) “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”
- Jesus’ field general—Paul—is saying, report for duty.
- We live in enemy territory. This is not peacetime. Life is war.

- **We must fight for the truth of the gospel—we must wage the good warfare.**

I. We must fight for the truth of the gospel in our lives for our good and God's glory (v.18-19)

I. "FAITH" (pure doctrine)

- **1 Timothy 4:16** "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers."

II. "CONSCIENCE" (pure living)

- **Galatians 2:14** "But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"
- **1 Timothy 1:5** "The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

II. We must fight for the truth of the gospel in the church for others' good and God's glory (v.20)

- **Matthew 18:15-20**
- **1 Corinthians 5:1-5**