Fighting the Good Fight of Faith

INTRODUCTION.

A. The apostle Paul, in his letter to Timothy wrote, “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:12)

1. The apostle Paul was not talking about a physical war where Christians take up arms. Instead, the apostle Paul was talking about a spiritual warfare where faith is our shield and the word of God is our sword. (cf. 2 Corinthians 10:1-6)

2. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the church in Ephesus described the fight as such: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

B. Just as Timothy carried the charge of fighting the good fight of faith, so to do Christians today. In this lesson we will focus on what we need in order to fight the good fight of faith.

I. WHAT WE NEED TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH.

A. We must study diligently so as to present ourselves approved to God, being able to rightly divide the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

B. We must grow our faith so we can fight the good fight of faith. (Romans 10:17)

C. We must flee those things which are contrary to our life as Christians. (1 Timothy 6:11a)

1. Withdraw from those who are arrogant and “obsessed with disputes and arguments over words.” (1 Timothy 6:3-5, 20-21)

2. Avoid covetousness, recognizing godliness brings the greatest gain. (1 Timothy 6:6-10; vs 17-19)
3. Flee youthful lusts. (2 Timothy 2:22)
4. Flee sexual immorality (fornication). (1 Corinthians 6:18)
5. Flee idolatry. (1 Corinthians 10:14)

D. We must pursue that which leads us to heaven. (vs 11b)
1. Paul told Timothy to “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.” (1 Timothy 6:11b)
2. The idea of “pursuing” godly traits and practices is crucial to a Christian’s life. (1 Peter 3:11 (Psalm 34:14); Romans 14:19; 2 Timothy 2:22)
3. We are to pursue or seek those things which are above. (Colossians 3:1-2)

E. We must “lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:12)
1. Laying hold on eternal life requires a determination of mind and spirit. Consider the example of the apostle Paul. (Philippians 3:12-14)
2. However, we must continue to “hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.” (Hebrews 3:14)

F. We must keep the Lord’s commands “without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing.” (1 Timothy 6:13-16)
1. While the context points to the command to “fight the good fight of faith,” the need to obey all the Lord’s commands is just as crucial.
2. Obedience to the Lord is necessary to being found “without spot” and “blameless.” We must seek obedience with diligence. Consider the words of Peter as he encourages the brethren to “be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.” (2 Peter 3:11-14)

G. We must present our bodies as living sacrifices to God. (Romans 12:1-2)
H. We must be equipped to take the stand. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
   1. We are to “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His
      might.” (vs 10)
   2. We are to “put on the whole armor of God” so we can stand
      against the “wiles of the devil.” (vs 11)
   3. We are to “take up the whole armor of God” so we can stand.
      (vs 12-13)

I. We must remain faithful, even unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

CONCLUSION.
   A. Christians must always stay vigilant, always fighting the good fight of
      faith.
   B. Let us all give careful consideration to our lives to make certain we are
      truly fighting the good fight of faith by:
      1. Diligently studying God’s word.
      2. Growing our faith.
      3. Fleeing those things contrary to living faithfully to God.
      4. Pursuing that which leads us to heaven.
      5. Laying hold on eternal life.
      6. Keeping the Lord’s commands.
      7. Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices.
      8. Being equipped to take the stand.
      9. Remaining faithful until death.