

Fight a Good Fight
Lesson 2
“We are in a War”
(Continued)

1 Timothy 1:17-19

17) Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen. 18) This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 19) Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: 20) Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme

1. Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 6:12 to “Fight a Good Fight” indicating that “We are in a War.”

2. Let us break down what Paul told Timothy to do, and which applies to us as well

a. Fight the good fight of faith,

b. KJV...Lay hold on eternal life,

i. God called us unto eternal life

ii. When we accepted the call to be a Christian, we were called unto eternal life, and by accepting that call, we professed a good profession before many witnesses, those to whom we declared that we have accepted Jesus (eternal life).

NIV...Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

NLT...Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.

Note: We have accepted Jesus as our Savior, and we have testified, or declared before witnesses that we have accepted Christ, thus declaring that we have eternal life, now let us

i. Fight the good fight of faith for the true faith

ii. Take hold on eternal life, and hold tightly to the eternal life which God has given us at our acceptance of His Son, Jesus

iii. Understand that our Christian Walk is not a stroll through park, or a leisurely walk down a country trail, but this “Christian Walk,” is a journey of “War” which we must fight with everything that is in us, so we can rise up in victory in Christ Jesus

3. Now, let us look at today's text

a. v17...Our victory in this world is through our Eternal King

Kjv... Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Niv...All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.

b. v18...To Timothy, and to us "War a good warfare"

Kjv... This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

Niv...Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles.

c. v19a...To Timothy, and to us "Hold to your faith and hold to a good conscience"

Kjv... Holding faith, and a good conscience;

Niv...Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear.

d. v19b-20...To Timothy, and to us...There is a danger when we violate or put away our faith

Kjv... Which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme

Niv... For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked. Hymenaeus and Alexander are two examples. I threw them out and handed them over to Satan so they might learn not to blaspheme God.

4. So, as we are engaged in this warfare, fighting the good fight of faith, there are five things from this text we need to observe, and they are

a. The Winner of the Warfare...Our Association with the King

b. The Way of the Warfare.....Our Exhortation to war a good warfare

c. The Word of the Warfare.....Our Authority to victory in this warfare

d. The Walk of the Warfare.....Our Attitude and Action...Faith and Conscience

e. The Warning of the Warfare...

I. The Winner of the Warfare...Our Association with the King

A. v17 shows us that we already have a winner of the warfare

1. King Jesus is the winner
 - a. Jesus has already won the war
 - b. Jesus has already conquered the devil
 - c. John 16:33...Jesus said...be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
 - i. As we face our opposition...
Be of good cheer, He who has overcome will enable us to overcome
 - ii. As we face our deepest fears
Be of good cheer, He who has overcome will enable us to overcome

2. One Day, King Jesus will abolish death

- a. At this moment, according to the Bible, satan is the one who has the power to kill or bring death

Note: John 10:10... The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

Note 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 (Nlt)

25) For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. 26) And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

- b. Jesus has conquered our enemy, defeated sin, but we are not as of yet enjoying the full privilege of that victory
 - i. That is why we have to fight a good fight...
because we are not enjoying the full privilege of Jesus' victory
 - ii. That is why we are told in 1 John 4:4
 - 1st...We are of God
 - 2nd...Since we are of God...We have overcome...the spirits that are of this world
 - 3rd...We are overcomers because we are of God, therefore...
Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
- c. We understand that things will get better for us, as God's children
 - i. We are not in heaven yet, but
 - 1) It is exciting being a Christian

- 2) It is exciting living for Christ
- 3) It is going to get better
- ii. Heaven is not on earth, but it is possible to be full of joy while living for God here on earth, because our King is a Winner, enabling us to be winners
- iii. 1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us that heaven is beyond anything we can imagine

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Note: Since we are aware of the victory we have in Christ here, life here is good, but nothing here is even in any way comparable to what is awaiting us in heaven, when this life here is completed.

B. The person of Jesus Christ is referenced in v17

17) Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1. The word “Now” refers to the present
 - a. “Now” refers to the time in which we are waiting to go to heaven
 - b. We should be more excited about going to heaven to see Jesus, than we are about living the Christian life
 - i. We must live the Christian life, and we can have joy and peace while living it
 - ii. Listen to what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:19
If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
 - iii. There should be a great thrill at the prospect of Jesus taking us to heaven
2. v17 indicates the authority of Jesus Christ
 - i. Jesus Christ is our King
 - ii. Jesus Christ, our King is the Winner of the warfare, which means that everything will turn out right
 - iii. Jesus, as King, has absolute authority and control
 - 1) Matthew 28:18...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

2) Hebrews 10:13...From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

3) Acts 2:34-36 (KJV)

For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

iv. We need to understand that Jesus Christ is Sovereign God

1) Jesus is not a mini-god, nor a superstar

2) Jesus is the infinite, perfect God

3) Jesus has all things in His hand

4) Jesus has all authority given unto Him, and

a) At no times as the devil ever been a threat to the authority of Jesus Christ

b) At no time will the devil ever be a threat to the authority of Jesus Christ

C. God is in control

1. There may be times when you feel that you have been abandoned

a. Understand, though, that nothing ever takes God by surprise

b. God never says "oops," that slipped up on me

c. God knows the end from the beginning, and since Jesus Christ is God, He knows the end from the beginning

i. He has the whole world in His hands, including you and I, brother and sister

ii. He is that Friend that sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24)

2. Jesus knows exactly what is happening, because He is the King, and He is in charge.

D. Let us learn to live in victory over our enemy

1. Jesus, our General in this conflict, has the Victory, so, let us follow Him to Victory

2. When we accept Christ as our Savior,

- a. Immediately, we are on the side of the King,
 - b. Immediately, we are part of the army of God,
 - c. Immediately, we are at odds with satan, and
 - d. We have already won which is a mindset that we need to grasp, while we fight this fight of faith
3. Live in victory while understanding that the fight may become heated
- a. The conflict may rage...But we can always win
 - b. There may be a great turmoil...But we can always win
 - c. We may not always be on top...But we can always win
 - d. We are in the King's army...So, we can always win
 - e. Being in the King's army gives us the authority of the King...So, we can always win
 - f. If a person refuses to quit, that person will not lose...So we can always win
 - g. Depression may come...But we can always win
 - h. Fear may fill us...But we can always win
 - i. We may struggle with marital relationships...But we can always win
 - j. We may struggle emotionally...But we can always win

Note: Herein lies our hope, that as long as we serve Christ, refusing to quit, to give up, we have the assurance from the King of kings that we are an eternal winner

E. King Jesus has already overcome our enemy

1. Herein lies the basis of us being able to live a happy life, a joyful life, a peaceful life, a victorious life
2. We live in His overcoming power, because as Christians, we are identified with Him
3. For us to have victory, we must be saved, receive Jesus as our Savior
 - a. There is absolutely no hope of victory in this life without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

b. Regardless of our sin, Jesus will forgive us and receive us into His kingdom, if we will confess our sin and accept Jesus as our Savior

c. To receive Christ as Savior, we must believe that He is the only One Who can save

Note: The Winner of the War is King Jesus, and he is our Association, connection, relationship to being a winner.

i. Turning over a new leaf will not make us a Spiritual winner...

We must accept Jesus as our Savior

ii. Quitting all our bad habits will not make us a Spiritual winner...

We must accept Jesus as Savior

iii. Only through Christ can we have victory

Note: Now, let us look at The way of the Warfare where Paul exhort, warns, caution, admonishes Timothy, and us to “War a good Warfare.”

II. The Way of the Warfare (v18)... Our Exhortation to war a good warfare

18) This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

A. Paul tells Timothy how he wants him to fight in v18

1. Fight a good fight

2. Be a real soldier

3. Be an effective soldier in God’s kingdom

B. We must be effective soldiers in His kingdom

1. Meekness or humility is not expressed in defeat and in failure

a. Failure may help bring us to a point of humility

b. And The product of humility is Victory

2. There is no virtue in weakness and failure, nor are we displaying how humble we are by admitting that we are failing, and it is time to stop testimonies such as these

a. I know I am not the kind of Christian I ought to be

b. I know I am not fighting a real good fight

c. I know I am not doing a real good job

C. God says to fight a good fight

1. Paul did not tell Timothy to do the best he could
2. Paul told Timothy to fight a good fight
3. God expects us, as Christians to be fruitful and productive
4. God expect us, as Christians to be overcomers because he has provided everything necessary to be that kind of Christian

Note: The only thing that will keep us from being what God wants us to be is negligence

5. Fight a good fight, and quit making excuses
 - a. I would be a better Christian If
 - i. My spouse was better, or if my spouse supported me
 - ii. My kids were not so difficult
 - iii. I was not so sickly or so poor
 - iv. I lived in a different part of town, or had a different job, etc
 - b. Paul did not tell Timothy to fight a good fight, unless he had trouble with his deacons
 - c. We cannot excuse our failure because someone else has failed

Note: Paul said “Fight a good fight,” and I am convinced that he was not talking about a church committee meeting

Note: We see that the Winner of our Warfare is our Association, and the War of the Warfare is our Admonition, for we are exhorted, admonished to “War a good Warfare.”

III. The Word of the Warfare (v18)... Our Authority to victory in this warfare is the Word

18) This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

A. Paul tells Timothy to Fight a good fight according to the prophecies which went before him... The Word which he had already received

1. Timothy was a pastor who had been raised in the church

2. Timothy's family loved the church
3. Most of Timothy's associations loved the church
4. Timothy was a student of Paul,
 - a. He had studied after Paul
 - b. Timothy had sat at Paul's feet and personally studied with this great Apostle
 - c. Paul had shared with Timothy profound prophecies
5. God had already spoken to Timothy about his ministry
 - a. God had called Timothy to the ministry
 - b. God had placed Timothy in the ministry
 - c. God had revealed to Timothy how to live a godly life, through the Apostles

Note 1 Timothy 4:14 (Nlt)

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Note: Nlt calls it "Spiritual Gifts" and hands of the "elders"

B. Timothy's Bible was not like ours, but yet, there was authority in the Word he received

1. Timothy's Bible was the Word of the Apostles
2. Being a student of Paul's, Timothy had heard and received Word Prophecy after Prophecy
3. The words of the Apostles had the authority of God and the authority of Scripture,

C. Our word today is the Bible

1. The Bible is all we need
2. The Bible is what tells us that satan, our enemy, is a defeated foe, not a Hollywood sensational being
3. The Bible, which is the Word of God, is our authority
 - a. Timothy had already received his prophecies, and he did not need a new one

- b. Church, we have received our Word, and we do not need another one
- c. In the Bible, we find that we can legally with authority bind and loose here on earth what is already legally bound and loosed in heave (Amp)
- d. In the Bible, we find that with authority we can tread on serpents and scorpions
- e. In the Bible, we find that if we will abide in Christ, and His Word abides in us, then we can ask what we will, and it will be done
- f. In the Bible, we find that there is no temptation taken us, but what is common to man, but God will with the temptation make a way to escape
- g. In the Bible, we find that if we will resist the devil, he will flee from us
- h. In the Bible, we find that we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us
- i. In the Bible, we find that we are heirs, joint heirs with Christ, because through Christ we are the Children of God
- j. In the Bible, we find that those who have faith in Christ are in faith the Children of Abraham, so that the blessings of Abraham through the Spirit may come upon us

Note: there is nothing new in Christianity, and we cannot share anything new, for it is all in the Word of God. Therefore, the Word of Warfare (Bible) is our Authority, so, let us Walk Walk of the Warfare, demonstrating by our Walk, our Attitude and Actions, that we believe our Authority that we have in God's Word

IV. The Walk of the Warfare (v19)... Our Attitude and Action... Faith and Conscience

19) Holding faith, and a good conscience;...

A. Paul tells Timothy that he can fight a good fight by holding faith

1. It takes two feet to walk effectively
2. If you do not have two feet, then you must use a crutch, or a cane to walk
3. Both feet must cooperate
4. Many Christians have a great action, but they go nowhere because they are trying to walk with only one foot

B. The two feet are Attitude and the Action

1. Faith and a good conscience must work together

2. Our attitude is faith
3. Our action is obedience

C. First, Paul told Timothy to hold fast to His faith

1. Having faith means that we simply take God at His Word

- a. Let us be Objective in our view of the Scripture

- i. Let us accept the Word for what it says without being influenced by personal feelings, without being bias

Note: It does not matter what I feel, or what I think. God's Word is truth, so I believe, taking the Word for what the Word says without trying to explain, or take away from it

- ii. Let us take the Word as fact, be objective, believe it

Note: The Word is fact. My experiences may support it, and they may not support it. Regardless, the Word is fact.

- b. Let us be Subjective, and apply the Scripture

- i. To our own personal life

- ii. To me as an individual

- iii. Understanding, that the Scripture does not apply just to those in Bible day, nor to only a few, but every Word of God's Word applies to you and I personally, so Let us take a personal, subjective view of God's Word and live by it

Note: Let us not only believe the Scripture, but let us apply the Scripture to our lives, and in obedience live by them every day.

2. Explanation

- a. Many people can believe what the bible says about the anti-christ, but they are not willing to believe what the Bible says about us

- b. The greatest hindrance to victory in the lives of Christians is the fact that most Christians do not believe they can live in victory

- c. Christians think the preacher can live in victory, but they feel that they cannot

3. Faith is the attitude that says "I can because God says so"

- a. Faith takes God at His Word
- b. Faith is having the right attitude
- c. Faith is trusting and believing

D. Second in this good walk is Conscience

1. Conscience has to do with how we relate to righteousness and God's principles
2. Conscience has to do with obedience to God, and how we deal with sin in our lives
3. God has a program for dealing with sin
 - 1st. God dealt judicially with sin on the cross.
 - 2nd. Let us look at God's two step program for you and I to deal with sin in this life
 - 1st. Sin must be confessed...God forgives what we confess

Note 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2nd. We must repent

- i. Confession is not enough
- ii. We must quit sinning, and turn from sin as well as Confess sin

Note: If we are going to walk in the Christian life, we must have an attitude that is right. And We must believe God and have actions that are right.

Note: No matter how much we confess sin, we will not be able to counter the accusations of our enemy unless we conform our lives to the Word of God through personal obedience.

- i. We must obey Jesus
- ii. We must live according to God's Word
- iii. Obeying Jesus and living according to God's Word is the action of the Christian life
- iv. Jesus said "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (John 14:15)
- v. We are not going to have fellowship with God simply because we confess our sins

- 1) Confession is maintenance of fellowship, rather than the method of fellowship
- 2) We get into fellowship with God through obedience, and we submit to His authority

Note: The walk of this warfare is our Attitude and Action, which demonstrate our faith and conscience.

Conclusion: Let us conclude with the Warning of the Warfare (v19b-20)

19b) ...Which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: 20) Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme

1. Some have put away faith and Conscience

- a. When you put away faith and conscience, you become shipwreck
- b. Look at v19 from different versions
 - i. KJV begins with Holding faith, and a good conscience; then, the KJV says
Which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck
 - ii. NIV

Holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

iii. NLT

Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.

iv. AMP

Holding fast to faith (that leaning of the entire human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence) and having a good (clear) conscience. By rejecting *and* thrusting from them [their conscience], some individuals have made shipwreck of their faith.

2. Shipwrecked lives happen because

- a. KJV...They put away their faith
- b. NIV...They rejected their faith and conscience
- c. NLT...They deliberately violated their conscience, resulting in their faith being shipwrecked
- d. AMP...

By rejecting and thrusting from them [their conscience], some individuals have made shipwreck of their faith.

3. Paul tells Timothy that some have refused to believe God

- a. If one does not believe right, he cannot behave right
- b. Unbelief is the greatest sin in the life of a Christian
 - i. We fail to do as we should because we fail to believe

Note: How can a person not do right, if he/she really believes that they could face God in the next moment. When we fail to really believe that God means what God says in Word, then we fail to live as we should.

- ii. When we fail to take God at His Word, then we will shipwreck our lives

Note: We can be shipwrecked and at times not feel shipwrecked.

- i. Some are shipwrecked on the rocks of depression and disaster
- ii. Others are shipwrecked on the islands of pleasure

4. A shipwrecked life loses their relationship with God

5. Let us examine our hearts, then Confess our sins, and repent, change from the wrong way of living