



Wage the Good Warfare
“Entrusted to You” Series
1 Timothy 1:18-20, p. 991
January 24, 2021
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage we learn about the battle facing the church and the resources God provides for warfare.

The Text: 1 Timothy 1:18-20

¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰ among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1) Christians are exhorted to wage the good warfare with the resources God provides.

a) Personal Support – pastors, mentors, local church community.

b) Prophetic Confirmation – public recognition and ordination of God’s assignment.

c) Perseverance and Purity – the war is waged by trusting and resting in God’s power.

2) Christians are exhorted to wage war, but we need to define carefully what is “the good fight.”

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.

1 Peter 2:9-11: But you are ... a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ... Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

(1) When we spiritualize common grace things, we make created and temporary things an idol, and worship almost always follows.

Q: What issues and people do you think about the most (how’s your devotional life)?

(2) When we prioritize common grace fights over special grace fights, we become distracted from the gospel and the ministry assigned to the church.

Q: What causes have you been fighting the most (how’s your ministry life)?

Response

Hold fast, Christians, as you wage the good warfare!

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Timothy 1:18-20 (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: What are one or two things in our world that you think Christians need to fight?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What is the significance of Paul referring to Timothy as “my child/son” (v. 18)?
- 4) How many “war” or “battle” terms or images are used in these three verses, and why is that significant?
- 5) The word “prophecies” in v. 18 is functioning in a general sense to refer to the natural ways the Lord reflects his will and confirms things by his providence. In what ways does God direct and confirm people by his providence today?
- 6) What does Paul mean when he says that we should “wage the good warfare” by “holding faith and a good conscience” (v. 19)?
- 7) Paul mentions two men who have shipwrecked their faith. Who can you think of (anonymously – without gossip or slander) who has shipwrecked their faith?
- 8) What does Paul mean when he says regarding Hymenaeus and Alexander, “whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme” (v. 20)?
- 9) How can Christians know which battles being fought by Christians today are driven by the gospel and which battles are of lesser, temporary importance?
- 10) How can Christians stay focused on gospel battles and yet still engage appropriately in lesser battles in culture today?

Further study this week: Passages talking about war and battle: Ephesians 6:11-12 (Mon); 1 Timothy 6:12 (Tues); 2 Corinthians 10:4 (Wed); Deuteronomy 20:1-4 (Thurs); Psalm 144 (Fri).