



First Timothy

Fight the Good Fight

Of Faith

I Timothy 6:12

Lesson Thirty-Two

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum



First Timothy

A Study of the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to His Son in the Faith

Fight the Good Fight—I Timothy 6:12

In today's lesson we are going to talk about fighting. But this is a different kind of fighting than we think of most of the time. Paul is ending his letter and seems to want to be sure that Timothy takes what he has been saying very seriously. Read I Timothy 6:12-14.

When a person becomes a Christian, they take their place in what may seem like a contest. When Paul told Timothy to fight the good fight in chapter one, verse eighteen, he used a word that means go to war, or get on the front line of the military battle. Here, he uses a different word that means get in the race. In both cases the Christian is in a contest. The goal is to win...the battle or the race.

When you become a Christian, you don't just sit down and enjoy the ride to Heaven. The road of Christian living is full of potholes, hills and curves.* The one who would destroy you, Satan, has many tricks up his sleeve to make you doubt your salvation, to encourage you to sin and to make you think it's good to let someone else do the hard stuff.

We must individually fight the battle, or run the race of faith. In this world we have two major enemies. The first is ourselves. The second is Satan. What kinds of things do we have to fight against in ourselves? Well, we might just look at the other side of the things that Paul told Timothy to pursue in verse eleven. We are our own enemy when we live in unrighteousness, ungodliness, faithlessness, without love, when we fail to endure and when our lives are harsh and unkind.

Satan is always our enemy, because he doesn't want anyone to behave like God made us to behave. So, he is going to tempt us to live ungodly lives and not to share God's Word and the hope of salvation that Jesus made possible. James 4:7 tells us to resist Satan.

The battle, or race of faith, is our promise to hold on to the faith which comes from God and, in faith, live up to God's expectations for us. What is this faith? Look back to chapter one, verse fifteen: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners." Look back to I Timothy 2:6 referring to Jesus, "who gave Himself as a ransom for all men." Look back to I Timothy 4:10, "We have put our hope in the living God who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe."

Christian faith is based on the belief that Jesus is the Son of God. Anything or anyone who denies that truth is not of faith. I Peter 5:8,9 says, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith..." So, faith is what is needed to defeat Satan.

Then, Paul tells Timothy to "take hold" of eternal life. We are reminded of Paul's words to the church at Philippi, when he said, "I press on to *take hold* of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." (Philippians 3:12) and "Run in such a way as to get the prize." (I Corinthians 9:24) Timothy must forget being afraid and run, head long, to the goals in life that please God. It is not a matter of doing what is convenient, what is easy, but charging forward without

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hesitation and grab on to life as God plans it. In II Timothy 4:2, Paul told Timothy to “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” So, Timothy knew what he was to do. Paul is simply encouraging him to do what he already knows to do...what he was called to do.

When Paul said that Timothy should take hold of eternal life, he was not telling Timothy to work to get eternal life. He was reminding Timothy that God had already given him eternal life and that he should start living a life that would not end, ever. It is not a life that depends on this world. It is not a life that ends when we die. It is a life that just goes on forever. So when Timothy accepted the fact that he was living a new life, an eternal life, he would change how he thought about his life of serving God.

Paul said, in verse thirteen, that Timothy had made a good testimony of his calling. When a person knows what God has called him or her to be or do, that person should tell others about it. Paul called it a “good confession.” And, Paul said that the confession had been made in the presence of many witnesses. So, Timothy did it right.

What can we learn from this verse?

First, living as Christians means that sometimes it is a battle or like a race. You want to win.

Second, Satan doesn't want us to win, and will do anything to stop us.

Third, We need faith to defeat Satan. Our faith must be in Jesus and what He promised.

Fourth, We usually know what to do, so we should do it without fear or hesitation.

Fifth, Eternal life is already ours. We just need to begin living as if we are God's forever.

Sixth, When God calls us, it is not necessarily a call to do what Timothy did. God calls persons to do all kinds of things for Him and to make our world a better place.

Seventh, We are to tell other people about our calling. As a matter of fact, we should want **everyone** to know that God has called us and given us work to do here on earth.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to have courage and live as God calls them to live.

Scripture Memory: “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” I Timothy 6:12

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Student Worksheet—Following Through

Fight the Good Fight—I Timothy 6:12

>The road of Christian living is full of potholes, _____ and _____.

>What are the two enemies Christians have in this world?

1.

2.

What are seven things we can learn from our Scripture verse for today?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

For Memory: “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” I Timothy 6:12

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.