

26. Gospel Driven Life

Fight the Good Fight PRIMER

Bottom Line: We are called to fight the good fight → to stand upon the foundation of who God is, clinging to the eternal life we have been given, and boldly proclaiming our allegiance to him as we flee from sin and pursue Christlikeness - all for the glory of God.

Parallel Passage: *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:1-8 ESV)

Summary: Paul begins his closing words to Timothy with an eloquent charge toward godliness. Timothy is to “pursue” the virtues toward which God summons us. But this is not a godliness devoid of the gospel of grace. Rather, this is itself the life of faith: “Fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Timothy 6:12). There can be no fulfilling of the gospel ministry without godliness and its attendant virtues, all of which arise from the beauty of the gospel, as we behold Christ, the mystery of godliness (1 Timothy 3:16).

For Paul, this wasn’t a motivational speech. It was the way that he lived his life (and died). He truly lived and died for the gospel. Yes, that is a strong sentence, but it is the reality that we are called to. Our lives are supposed to be poured out for the gospel - every ounce wrung out for God’s glory.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Looking at your life, for what do you tend to fight? Don't just say "family" or "God" because you are supposed to - what ACTUALLY makes you passionate? Politics? Sports? Money?
- 2) What does it mean to live a lifestyle of repentance? What could that look like for you practically?
- 3) How is future grace - eternal life - a motivator for why we should fight the good fight of the faith if grace is a gift? In other words, if we were earning eternal life, the motivation would be clear, but since eternal life is a free gift from God - how does that motivate us?
- 4) Earning something is burdensome, but thankfulness for a gift is natural response. Do you agree?
- 5) What is the public confession that we remind ourselves of as mentioned in 1 Timothy 6?
- 6) Why should God's identity be the foundation for everything we do?
- 7) After 26 weeks in 1 Timothy, it is apparently clear that God is concerned about the gospel. He wants it to go forward with accuracy and clarity. Where are you not fighting for your faith? What do you need to change? How are you going to change (realizing you are powerless without God's help)?