

Fighting the Noble War, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 1 Timothy 1:18-20.

B. Our calling is to fight a noble war against Satan. It is a raging cosmic conflict against the supernatural, not humans. (2 Corinthians 12:7, 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18, 1 John 2:13-14)

C. False teachers were attacking the truth in Ephesus probably on the sufficiency of Christ, the person of Christ and the gospel of Christ.

D. False teachers were teaching against the pure life.

E. In the midst of this conflict, Timothy is called to understand his responsibility and accountability to the church, the Lord and the blasphemers.

II. Responsibility to the church.

A. Paul says that believers have a duty, but Christians do not like to talk about duty today.

B. God is upset with those who shirk divine duty. (Luke 17:7, Exodus 4, 2 Timothy 4, Ezekiel 33:3)

C. Paul gave Timothy a sacred trust. He was given a command and a commission.

D. Any church leaders should have confirmation that they are under the command and commission of the Lord.

III. Responsibility to the Lord.

A. Faith and a good conscience are critical in the noble war.

B. Holding to faith is holding to true doctrine.

C. Theological error had its roots in moral rather than intellectual error.

Application Questions:

1. What are some examples of false teaching that threatens the church today similar to the false teaching that Timothy faced in Ephesus?

2. How should we respond to believers who shirk church authority? What kind of relationship should be cultivated with church leaders?

3. Why do you think so much theological error is rooted in moral issues?
