

Wage the Good Warfare

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I. Introduction.

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

B. Paul's word to Timothy is to wage the good warfare.

II. The moment a person enters the Christian life, he enters a life-long struggle.

A. The object of the warfare is to be a Christian in the midst of any circumstance.

B. Christ lived in the midst of normal life--He dealt earnestly and lovingly in the pressures around Him.

C. What makes the struggle difficult is that the world, the flesh and the devil oppose us.

1. The world is society committed to a godless philosophy.

2. The flesh is that part of us that only wants to live for ourselves.

3. The devil is always trying to deceive us.

III. Paul encourages Timothy by his desire to please him.

IV. How to wage a good warfare.

A. Hold to faith.

B. Have a good conscience.

1. The conscience is not merely feelings about what is wrong and what is right.

2. The conscience takes advantage of what we already know is right or wrong--it does not tell us what is right or wrong.

3. Revelation is what tells us what is right or wrong.

4. The Christian life is knowing what is right and having the resolve to do it.

C. Many do not maintain a good conscience and need to be corrected by the church--they are delivered to the discipline of "Satan" if they do not repent.

D. We are called to live a Christian life in a godless world, which is a fierce battle.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that no one should have to suffer anymore once he or she becomes a Christian?

2. What are the threats to our faith? How should we respond to each?

3. What does it mean to have a good conscience? Explain.
