

## 1 Tim.1:18-19 “Offence and Defence”

**For the Children:** There are many different kinds of fighting. You see some kinds in the home, or at school. Adults also fight. Very often, these fights are not godly. But God’s children are called to fight a good kind of fight. We are to fight for God’s honour, for His Truth and His peace. We fight against sin and error. We are not to fight in the ungodly way that we see in the world, but in the way that is led by God’s Word and Spirit.

**Questions:** What did Timothy have to fight in Ephesus? What does it mean to fight in faith? What does it mean to fight with a good conscience?

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### Introduction:

#### First Point: A Good Mandate

- 1) A Command Entrusted: Paul commits a charge to Timothy. The language of command is strong – he literally “commands a command.” He does so as Timothy’s “spiritual father” and as an apostle. He also bases this on certain “prophetic utterances about Timothy – perhaps when Paul was first led by the Spirit to meet Timothy; or, at his ordination. See also 1 Tim.4:14 and 6:12.
- 2) A Mandate for All God’s People: Prophetic utterances have ceased. We only have God’s Word to guide us now. That Word issues the same mandate for ministers as that received by Timothy (1 Tim. 1:18, 6:12) and by the apostles (2 Tim.4:7) – to “fight the good fight.” See Titus 1:10-11. But all members have that calling as well (1 Cor.9:24-27). Ministers, however, have special duties, authority, accountability – and a “higher profile” – in that fight.

#### Second Point: A Necessary Fight

- 1) The Good Fight of Faith: Some types of fighting are wrong. The fight we are called to is “spiritual warfare,” in faith. See Eph.6:10f. The idea of waging war, an offensive action, receives emphasis by doubling the word “fight.” God’s people are not to take error (like that of Hymenaeus and Alexander) or sin lying down!
- 2) The Holding Action: On the defensive side, this fighting involves “keeping faith.” We hold to the Truth and we do so in faith – belief, trust and commitment to the Lord Jesus.
- 3) With a Good Conscience: In fighting sin, we often commit sin. We need to have our consciences cleansed by Christ. In gratitude, we then strive to carry out this fight in a godly way. Our own conscience is not an infallible guide in this. It needs to be constantly informed by God’s Word and Spirit.

#### Third Point: With the Right Rudder

- 1) Suffering Shipwreck: Those who follow their own light, rather than being guided by Word and Spirit, suffer shipwreck. That is what happens when we throw away the only proper rudder to steer our lives.
- 2) A Stable Life: Being led by Word and Spirit in our use of reason, our emotions, our actions and in our conscience, leads to a stable life. Our fighting must also be guided in this way. We are not to use the weapons of the world.

### Conclusion: