



FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

BIG IDEA: God has called us to be guardians of the gospel.

DATE: Wednesday, October 1 and Sunday, October 5, 2025

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 1:12-30

OPENING QUESTION

What are some causes in your life that are important to you? (perhaps foster care, domestic violence, the environment, politics, animal abuse, etc.) *Why are those causes important to you?*

As Christians we are all called to the same cause - to guard the message of the Gospel. No matter what may change in the culture around us, we have been entrusted with safeguarding this timeless truth and pass it on.

SETTING THE STAGE

Paul sets the tone of his letter by referring to Timothy as his “true son in the faith” (1:2), and like a concerned father, he wants to make sure Timothy is fully equipped to handle the situation. False teachers had infiltrated the church in Ephesus. Among other things, these teachers were urging the believers to place themselves under Jewish law. Paul reminds Timothy that the power of the law pales in comparison to the power of the gospel of Christ. He urges Timothy to stay strong and to remember that he is not alone in the fight.

STUDY THE BIBLE

1 Timothy 1:12-20 (NLT)

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, ¹³ even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. ¹⁶ But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.

¹⁸ Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles. ¹⁹ Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked. ²⁰ Hymenaeus and Alexander are two examples. I threw them out and handed them over to Satan so they might learn not to blaspheme God.

DISCUSSION

GLORY TO GOD FOR HIS GRACE

READ: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Paul reminds Timothy of his own life and how God has used him in spite of his past. How does Paul say that his life before finding Christ differs from his life at the time when he wrote this letter? How did the change make him uniquely qualified to talk about God's abundant grace to others?

Paul had been a former persecutor of the church and considered himself a "chief" among sinners. What did Jesus demonstrate in extending mercy to Paul?

Why is a personal testimony such a rich and powerful tool for communicating the truths of the gospel?

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READ: 1 Timothy 1:18-20

Paul concludes this section with a brief prayer (or doxology), in which he praises the unmatched character of God. Why do you think Paul includes this prayer after reflecting on his own life? What is his personal charge to Timothy?

Paul names two false teachers (Hymenaeus and Alexander) and states they have been "delivered to Satan," which likely refers to their removal from the church. What had these men rejected? What did Paul want these men to learn?

RESPONSE

Circle up into smaller groups and answer these application questions together:

- What difference does it make in *your* life to know that Jesus extended mercy to Paul, the "chief" among sinners? Is there anything in your life you feel is too big of a sin for Jesus to forgive? How can we extend that mercy to ourselves and others?
- Who are some individuals you have mentored and encouraged in the faith? How did you do it? How have they helped *you*?
- What does it mean to "fight the good fight" when it comes to your faith in Christ? How can you "cling to your faith" and "keep your conscience clear" as verse 19 instructs?
- Because God has called us to act as guardians of the gospel, what can we do to live out that responsibility?