

Keep Fighting the Good Fight: What Not to Become

1 Timothy 1:18-20 (Part 3)

¹⁸ This command I entrust to you, Timothy, *my child*, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹ keeping faith and a good conscience, **which some, having rejected, suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.** ²⁰ Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

1. The Right Path: Faithfully Fighting the Good Fight

- a. Assignment: Clear RESPONSIBILITY
- b. Ability: Sufficient CAPABILITY
- c. Activation: LEVERAGED Ability
- d. Action: PURPOSED Ability
- e. Aim: Foundational FOCUS

Keep Fighting: The Good Fight Is a CONTINUOUS Fight

- **The Tools:** “that by them [spiritual gifts]”
 - **The Task:** “you may [be fighting]”
 - **The Target:** “the good fight”
 - **The Track:** “keeping faith and a good conscience”
 - a. **Faith (Belief):** resting on what God has revealed as true
 - b. **A Good Conscience:** serves as the built-in moral warning system, but it must be informed and trained by accuracy revelation
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2. The Wrong Path: Shipwrecked Faith

a. Rejection of Belief & Good Conscience

HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- 1) **By rejecting the accurate CONTENT of belief**
 - Foregoing the God-given teaching process
 - Ignoring God-provided teaching
 - Pursuing empty or false teaching
- 2) **By rejecting the aligning CONDUCT of belief**
- 3) **By rejecting the ALARMS of a Biblically-informed conscience**
 - Seared Conscience
 - Defiled Conscience
 - Evil Conscience

Paul Talks Much About Having a Good Conscience!

Acts 23:1 Now Paul, looking intently at the Sanhedrin, said, “Brothers, I have lived my life in all **good conscience** before God up to this day.”

1 Tim 1:5 But the goal of our command is love from a pure heart and a **good conscience** and an unhypocritical faith.

b. Result of Rejecting: Shipwrecked Concerning the Belief

suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith – **WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?**

WHY does a person reject

the content, conduct, or conscience warnings of belief?

1) Love of this _____: Focusing on this Present _____

2 Tim 4:10a for Demas, **having loved this present age**, has deserted me [Includes fads, trends, culture]

Titus 2:11–14 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² instructing us that, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live sensibly, righteously, and godly **in the present age**, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all lawlessness, and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good works.

2) Love of this _____: Focusing on this Present _____

Matt 6:24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or **he will be devoted to one and despise the other**. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Luke 8:14 And the *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with **worries and riches and pleasures of life**, and do not bear ripe fruit.

Luke 14:33 “So then, **none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.**

1 John 2:15-17 **Do not love the world nor the things in the world**. If anyone loves the **world**, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the **world**, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the **world**. ¹⁷ And the **world** is passing away, and *also* its lusts, but the one who does the will of God abides forever.

Col 3:1-4 Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.** ³ For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

2 Pet 3:10–12 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be found out. ¹¹ **Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness**, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens burning will be destroyed, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

3) Love of this World's _____: Focusing on _____

Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

Luke 18:29 And He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,

2 Cor 6:14–18 **Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers**; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ Or what agreement has a sanctuary of God with idols? For we are a sanctuary of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹⁷ "Therefore, **come out from their midst and be separate**," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean, And I will welcome you. ¹⁸ "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.

Eph 5:11–12 And do not participate in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead even expose them. ¹² For it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

Psalms 1:1 How blessed is the man **who does not walk** in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the way of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

4) Love of _____: Focusing on the _____

Luke 14:27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

John 12:25 He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Why Does One Shipwreck Concerning His/Her Belief?

Are you avoiding a shipwrecked belief?

If not, what needs to change in your life?

KEY TAKEAWAY REVIEW:

I am to

purposefully

adhere to

and act on

what God has revealed in His Word,

and purposefully

use

what God has enabled me to do

to build-up His people

and to advance His good news.