

Keep Fighting the Good Fight: Paul's Solution for Shipwrecked

Leaders 1 Timothy 1:18-20 (Part 4)

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:** the built-in moral warning system – must be informed

2. The Wrong Path: Shipwrecked Faith

a. Rejection of Belief & Good Conscience HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- 1) By rejecting the accurate CONTENT of belief
- 2) By rejecting the aligning CONDUCT of belief
- 3) By rejecting the ALARMS of a Biblically-informed conscience

b. Result of Rejecting: Shipwrecked Concerning the Belief

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

- 1) Love of this Age: Focusing on this Present Time
- 2) Love of this World: Focusing on this Present Place
- 3) Love of this World's Relationships: Focusing on People
- 4) Love of Ease: Focusing on the Easy Path

c. Paul _____ Some of Them

²⁰ Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander

1) Hymenaeus

2 Tim 2:16-18 But avoid godless *and* empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their word will spread like gangrene. Among them are **Hymenaeus** and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

2) Alexander

2 Tim 2:14-15 **Alexander** the coppersmith showed me much harm; the Lord will award him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our words.

d. Paul Hands Them Over to Satan

whom I have handed over to Satan,

1) God Uses Satan as an Avenue of _____

1 Tim 1:20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to **Satan**, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

1 Cor 5:5 deliver such a one to **Satan** for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

2) God Identifies Satan as the _____ of Unbelievers

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the authority of **Satan** to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

3) God Identifies Satan as the _____ of Believers

1 Cor 7:5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that **Satan** will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

2 Cor 11:13–15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder, for even **Satan** disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

1 Tim 5:15 for some have already turned aside after **Satan**.

4) God Identifies Satan as the _____ of Believers

Luke 22:31-32 Simon, Simon, behold, **Satan** has demanded to sift all of you like wheat. ³² "But I have prayed earnestly for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, once you have returned, strengthen your brothers."

2 Cor 2:10–11 But one whom you graciously forgive anything, I graciously forgive also. For indeed what I have graciously forgiven, if I have graciously forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, ¹¹so that no advantage would be taken of us by **Satan**, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

1 Thes 2:18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet **Satan** hindered us.

2 Cor 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of **Satan** to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

e. Paul Explains His Action

so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

1) To Teach Them (next week...)

2) Not to Be Blaspheming (~ ongoing)

a) The Meaning of Blasphemy

- **To speak evil / To slander**

b) The Means of Blasphemy (how it happens)

- **By speaking evil** _____

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and shouting and **slander** be put away from you, along with all malice.

Col 3:8 But now you also, lay them all aside: wrath, anger, malice, **slander**, and abusive speech from your mouth.

1 Tim 1:20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not **to blaspheme**.

1 Tim 6:4 he is conceited, understanding nothing but having a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, **slander**, evil suspicions,

2 Tim 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, **blasphemers**, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

Titus 3:1-2 Remind them... ² **to slander** no one, to be peaceable, considerate, demonstrating all gentleness to all men.

2 Pet 2:10–12 and especially those who go after the flesh in its corrupt lust and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they **blaspheme** glorious ones, ¹¹ whereas angels who are greater in strength and power do not bring a **reviling** judgment against them before the Lord. ¹² But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, **blaspheming** where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

Jude 1:8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and **speak evil** of dignitaries.

Jude 1:10 But these **speak evil** of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

- **By causing** _____ **to speak evil due to** _____ **actions**

Rom 2:17-24 ²³ You who boast in the Law, through your transgression of the Law, do you dishonor God? ²⁴ **For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,”** just as it is written.

Rom 14:15-17 For if because of food your brother is grieved, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Therefore **do not let what is for you a good thing be slandered**; ¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Tim 5:14 Therefore, I want younger *widows* to get married, bear children, keep house, **and give the enemy no opportunity for reviling** [λοιδορία], ¹⁵ for some have already turned aside after Satan.

1 Tim 6:1 All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor **so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be slandered**.

Titus 2:3-5 ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴ so that they may instruct the young women in sensibility: to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ **to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be slandered**.

2 Pet 2:2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth **will be maligned**.

Summary Thoughts:

- 1. Serving God faces** _____ **from outside & inside the Church.**
- 2. God tells me how to** _____, **how to** _____, **and how to** _____ **as a believer.**
- 3. What I think, what I say, and what I do are all extremely important to** _____ **and greatly influence others regarding God.**