

I Timothy Sermon #7 – Graduation Message

I Timothy 1

Graduation is the culmination of hard work and perseverance.

It is an exciting time in your life.

It can also be a time of great apprehension – not knowing the future

I have entitled this graduation message “The Charge to Every Student: War a Good Warfare”

Let us stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word

I Timothy 1:18e-20a

Be like Timothy, not Hymaneus or Alexander

Let us pray

You may be seated

The Charge to Every Student: War a Good Warfare

In vs. 18, Paul talks about Timothy's appointment, his calling to the ministry
A major part of that calling is to hold to sound teaching and refuse false teaching

Timothy, you teach sound doctrine
Because of your calling to this work of the Lord
This is your appointment
Timothy needed to be reminded of that!

Let me remind you students:

Faithful is He that calleth you – Who also will do it
That Jesus Christ hath begun a good work in you and will perform it

At the end of verse 18, we are given the nature of our ministry.

It's a warfare! This word refers to a lifelong campaign as a soldier of the Cross
We must view the work as a military campaign

People, do we realize that the ministry is not a single battle, or a couple of battles with
the enemy?

It is a lifelong battle.

It's not a sprint; it's a marathon.

It's not a sailing around the lake; it's a voyage.

In other words, what Paul is trying to communicate to Timothy was this: Timothy, you
stick with teaching sound doctrine.

This is your calling for life.

You have been entrusted with the Scriptures.

A leader cannot quit.

He must fight the good fight.

What better thing, to live and die for, than the great war between God and Satan—a war
for the souls of men and women

Every day is warfare.

Paul calls Timothy to fight the good fight.

Like all those in the ministry, Timothy was called to an unceasing spiritual warfare.

That fight demands equipped and trained and devoted soldiers – and, that’s you!

That’s why the demands of qualifications for leaders – I Timothy 3

They must be well qualified. Otherwise, the Bible says in I Timothy 3:7 . . .

There is no one in the church Satan would rather destroy than leaders – those who are
on the front lines for God

For the person in the ministry – he must always remember when he faces difficulties –
when there are struggles.

That this is part of the ministry and he cannot fold up his tent and go home

He has to stick with it.

Notice the encouragement to Timothy – war the good warfare

Remember your calling – don’t give up.

Now, Timothy, while you are engaged in your campaign, you must hold on to two things

#1 – you must hold on to faith – vs. 19

What is faith? Our conviction of the reality of unseen things

So we have a body of belief! – a conviction in our heart about

The deity of Christ

The virgin birth of Christ

The resurrection of Christ

The return of Christ

The inspiration of the Word of God

Keeping the faith means holding fast to the revealed truth of the Bible
 Timothy's first responsibility to the Lord was to remain loyal to the Word of God
 Timothy was to remain unwaveringly devoted to the Bible.

Hold on to faith.

And secondly, hold on to a good conscience.

That is a conscience that only approves things that keep with the truth

A good conscience is the result of a pure life.

The conscience is a God-given device in every human mind.

It either accuses or excuses (Rom. 2:14-15).

It produces feelings of well-being; it also activates guilt.

Its purpose is to warn the person of the fact that he is sinning.

The conscience is to the soul what pain is to the body.

Doctrinal purity – holding fast the faith – must be accompanied by purity of life—good
 conscience.

There is an inseparable link between truth and morality,

Sound doctrine and Godly living are the twin wheels on a motorcycle.

Dear people, if we will hold on to those two things, we can be successful in the work
 that God has called us to do

Timothy, you have been charged with a sacred trust.

You have been appointed to do this – called to this.

★Now, fight a good warfare – by holding to the truth and by living it out.★

Paul gives Timothy a reason for holding on to those two things

Vs. 19b – some having put away, rejected and refused – a good conscience.

A good conscience some have put away or pushed off.

A person who does this will be shipwrecked.

When we see people who have made shipwreck concerning the faith and we say to ourselves, “They know better,” – It is not a question of knowledge.

It’s a question of conscience.

A failure in conscience is a failure of application of Scripture to their own living.

They have allowed their conscience to be hardened.

The problem goes back to the place when he or she would not do the revealed will of
God

The problem goes back to the place of decision-making – yielding to the Spirit or yielding to the flesh.

Here’s what happens – follow me – a person decides to forego their convicting conscience – and the next step is to change the Truth to comply with their lifestyle.

Deviation from the faith and improper conduct as Christians is often preceded by a violation of the conscience.

A good conscience is like a rudder to our ship and when we abandon good conscience, we have abandoned the rudder and we will end up on the rocks regarding the faith.

Could this happen to you or me? Yes.

When a person puts away a good conscience, he is on his way to being shipwrecked.

Paul gives Timothy specific examples of this—those who suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

Vs. 20 – two men – as the result of rejecting their conscience – they suffered –
shipwrecked

They lost navigation; they lost their compass.

Our guide is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit of God that resides in us

I charge every student – keep a good conscience between you and God

Hold fast to the Word of God

War a good fight

Let us reunite one day in Heaven – haven given our best for the Lord

Professed Christians who “make shipwreck” of their faith do so by sinning against their
consciences

I want to read you a passage of Scripture as we part

Please stand

Turn to II Thessalonians 1:11-12

The Bible says . . .