

## **Waging the Good Warfare**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

1 Timothy 1:12-20

<sup>18</sup> This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, <sup>19</sup> holding faith and a good conscience.  
(1 Timothy 1:18-19, ESV)

### **Introduction**

Paul confronts Timothy, his young disciple, with the difficult task of commanding certain elders within the church at Ephesus to stop teaching false doctrines. Unfortunately, we do not know how receptive Timothy was to Paul's words or how he reacted. Imagine yourself in Timothy's shoes reading this letter. What are the thoughts and questions that might run through your mind and how would you respond to the urgings of Paul to "wage the good warfare"?

#### **1. Who is speaking the truth (and what is that truth)?**

- a) Thus you will recognize them by their fruits (Matthew 7:20, ESV).
- b) Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15, ESV).

#### **2. What do I do with the truth (once it is known)?**

- a) Fight or flight.
- b) Timothy charged to follow the prophecies previously made about him.

#### **3. How do I act on the truth?**

- a) The aim of our charge is love (1 Timothy 1:5, ESV).
- b) The good warfare may be more about what Timothy becomes than what he does.

### **Conclusion**

Unlike today, when Timothy received this letter two millennia ago, he did not have the luxury of calling, texting, or emailing Paul to ask any questions or discuss any concerns. Timothy was left to rely on his understanding of scripture and his faith in God. Did he end up waging the good warfare? Are you waging the good warfare in your walk with the Lord?

### **For our prayerful study, discussion, and application:**

- 1) Practice quieting and CAKE before sharing recent stories of escaping "enemy mode."
- 2) Share one thing that stood out for you in today's worship, scripture passage, or sermon.
- 3) Please share any concerns or needs you may have and pray for one another.