

BBC Bible Study Outline – 10/6/24 – “Fight – Take – Keep”

1 Timothy 6:12-14 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing”

This is an address to Men and Women of God – 1 Tim. 6:11 “But you, O man of God...”

3 Instructions for Men and Women of God

1. **Fight** the good fight of faith (v. 12a)

“Fight” is *agonizomai* from where we get our English “agonize” – the idea is striving hard

- In Scripture it is used in the contexts of both athletes and soldiers
- It is given in the present imperative sense, meaning it is an ongoing command – to fight and keep fighting

What kind of fight is it?

- A “good” fight – means praiseworthy or noble... this is a good fight to be in!
- A fight “of faith” – this is not a fistfight... it’s a faithfight!

2 aspects of this good fight (positive and negative)

- Positively (what we’re fighting FOR)
 - This is the athletic analogy... striving during in a race for a prize (Heb. 12:1; 1 Cor. 9:24-25)
 - Question: Where do I have room for improvement in striving FOR what I ought to in this good fight?
Example: Devotions, Fasting, Obedience to Authority, Faithfulness in Gathering with the Church, etc.
- Negatively (what we’re fighting AGAINST)
 - This is the soldier/warfare analogy... striving against spiritual wickedness
 - Jesus used in John 18:36 to show that His kingdom was not about physical fighting... however, the same root word is found in 1 Thess. 2:2 where Paul references the “conflict” he had while in Philippi (ex. Acts 16:18).
 - Question: What are some spiritual things we might fight against in our lives?
 - Passages where the reality of this spiritual fight we’re in is explained: Eph. 6:11-13; 2 Cor. 10:3-5
Note: fighting the good fight is NOT a battle against other believers with whom we disagree...

2. **Take** (or lay hold of) eternal life (v. 12b)

How do I take hold of eternal life??? This verb is not in the present tense like “fight”... it is the aorist tense which means it is speaking of something that has happened in the PAST.

Salvation is a process that involves past, present, and future.

- We have been saved from the Penalty of sin when we were justified
- We are being saved from the Power of sin as we are being sanctified
- We will be saved from the Presence of sin when we are finally glorified

Verses 12-14 speak to each of these!

- Question: Is God calling you to be saved today?

God loves you so much He sent His Son, Jesus Christ Who lived sinlessly and then died on the cross as a sacrifice for your sin and afterward rose from the dead, conquering it and offering eternal life to all who repent and believe in Him.

Romans 10:9 “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

“The Good Confession”

1) What is the “good confession”?

Read John 18:33-37 – The good confession Jesus made is that He is King and He is the Truth

- For us, making the good confession means to make a declaration of faith in Jesus Christ

2) When did Timothy make the “good confession”?

Possibly at his “ordination” (1 Tim. 4:14) or maybe at his baptism.

So how do we take hold of eternal life? Read 1 Tim. 6:17-19

We live out our salvation with an eternal perspective! Read 1 Peter 1:3-5

3. **Keep** the commandment... until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing (v. 14)

This is simply a reference back to the whole instruction beginning in verse 12... FIGHT the good fight of faith!