**Fighting the Good Fight**

(Pastor John Mulligan)   
  
**1 Timothy 1:18-20 (NIV)**

Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

### Christians are called children, friends, heirs, beloved of God—and we are also soldiers of God. Every soldier must know God, themselves, and their enemy:

1. **Listen to and follow biblical instruction and godly affirmation (v. 18a)**

Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them. . .

Acts 13:1-3

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

### Acts 16:1-3a

Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. Paul wanted to take him along on the journey. . .

1. **Learn to fight the right enemy the right way (v. 18b)**

**. . .**you may fight the battle well. . .

### 2 Corinthians 10:2-5, 7

I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

(7) You are judging by appearances. If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do.

### Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

### 2 Timothy 2:3-5

Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules.

1. **Latch onto the faith guided by a clear conscience (v.19a)**

**. . .** holding on to faith and a good conscience. . .

### 2 Samuel 24:10

David was **conscience**-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.”

Job 27:6

I will maintain my innocence and never let go of it;  
    my **conscience** will not reproach me as long as I live.

### Acts 24:16

So I strive always to keep my **conscience** clear before God and man.

### 1 Corinthians 4:4

My **conscience** is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

### 1 Timothy 4:2

Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose **consciences** have been seared as with a hot iron.

### Titus 1:15

### To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

1. **Leave and forsake the wrong protects from shipwreck (v. 19b-20)**

. . . some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

### Matthew 18:15-17

[Jesus speaking] “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

### 1 Corinthians 5:3-5

For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this. So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.