

Are You Up to a Good Fight?

043017AM

Text: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

- Saving faith is obedient, active and vigilant – 1 Thess. 5:6; 1 Pet. 4:7; Rev. 3:3.
- Cannot rely on our own strength (1 Cor. 10:12), but on the courage of faith and the power of God to aid us – 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 8:37; 2 Tim. 4:17.
- Paul often used the language of warfare – 2 Cor. 10:3-4; Eph. 6:11-17; 2 Tim. 2:3-4.
- We must fight the good fight of faith if we are to receive the crown of life.

Become a Contender – Fight to Be Saved!

- 1 Pet. 4:18 “Now **IF THE RIGHTEOUS ONE IS SCARCELY SAVED, WHERE WILL THE UNGODLY AND THE SINNER APPEAR?**”
- Against sin and Satan – 1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Tim. 2:26.
- Against self – Lk. 9:23; Acts 24:24-25; 26:28.
- Of surrender (“all to Jesus, I surrender”) – Phil. 3:7-11.
- Against human demands and expectations – Mk. 7:6-13.

Lk. 13:23-24 “Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, “**Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.**”

Strive (agōnizomai), Thayer's: a) to enter a contest: contend in the gymnastic games b) to contend with adversaries, fight c) metaphorically to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers d) to endeavour with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something.

- **Strive to do all the Lord requires of us to be saved – Acts 9:6; Eph. 6:13. Not like the rich young ruler, Mat. 19:20-22, or others who walked away – Jn. 6:66.**

Defend Your Title – Fight to Remain Saved!

- **Must compete to be victorious – 1 Cor. 9:25-27.**
- **A fight not finished until death – Rev. 2:10.**
- Exercise self-control – 1 Cor. 9:25; Heb. 12:1-2.
- Fight with purpose and resolve – 1 Cor. 9:26; 2 Jn. 8.
- Requires discipline of body and mind – 1 Cor. 9:27.

Heb. 12:1-2 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a

cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- 1 Tim. 6:12 – The **good fight of faith** – a valuable, virtuous contest; worth the battle and the prize!
- 2 Tim. 4:7a – **Finish the course** – Stopping anywhere short of finishing is to be defeated!
- 2 Tim. 4:7b – **Keep the faith** – guarded, attended, held fast; adhered to.

Become A Promoter – The Fight of Servanthood

- We battle because we love Christ – 2 Cor. 5:14-15.
- Because we know the value of a soul – Lk. 15; Mat. 16:26.
- Because we know the price that was paid to save the lost – Rom. 5:6-8.
- Because only by resisting the devil will he flee – Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9; Eph. 6:13.

Acts 14:22 “strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.””

1 Cor. 15:32 “If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “**LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE!**””

- Willingly spend and be spent on behalf of others – 2 Cor. 12:14-15.

Decision...

- We should always count our blessings.
- Never forget that blessings won't come if we aren't willing to put up a good fight against sin & for salvation.
- Everyone here today in somewhere in the struggle...
- To be saved from sin...
- To remain in a saved condition...
- To serve Christ and the cause of the Gospel...
- So that at the end, you too can say... “I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith...”