

SERMON OUTLINE

FIRST TIMOTHY

'Faith and Order in the Church of God' - 3

1st Timothy 1 v18 - 20

Introductory question - Is there a cause which, you believe, is worth fighting for?

Key text (key phrase) - v18 - "fight the good fight....."

Another introductory question - Are you up for a fight?

Context (v18a) - Paul is reminding Timothy of the day when he was set apart for (ordained to) gospel ministry - and the 2-fold charge he received that day.....

A. POSITIVELY - IT WAS TO PROCLAIM THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL

B. NEGATIVELY - IT WAS TO DEFEND THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL

Defending the truth of the gospel was going to mean a fight. See v18. Key question - How do we go about defending the truth of the gospel against those who deny it and distort it. Answer - by holding on to 2 things. See v19a.

1. OBJECTIVELY - THE FAITH

See the Letter of Jude v3 - "the faith that was once and for all entrusted to the saints." This faith (this body of teaching) has been set down for us in the Bible. What is it? What is its substance? What are its fundamentals? How do you sum it up?

(i) ITS ABOUT GOD - AND WHO HE IS

It's about the God who is the one, true, and living God. See Is 42 v8. But what is this God like?

(a) He is unapproachably holy

See Ps 24 v3 - 4

(b) He is indescribably love

1 Jn 4 v7, 4 v16.

(ii) IT'S ABOUT GOD - AND WHAT HE HAS DONE

See Jn 3 v16 & 1 Jn 3 v1

(iii) IT'S ABOUT GOD - AND HOW HE EXPECTS US TO LIVE

See - 2 Pet 3 v10.

Isn't this a faith worth proclaiming - a faith worth defending?

2. SUBJECTIVELY - THE CONSCIENCE

See v19b.

Concluding question of application - What are we going to do - accept this gospel (proclaiming it and defending it) or reject this gospel? See v19c - 20.

Key point - There is no other gospel!