



Sermon – 05/07/2017  
*1 Timothy 1:18 – 20*  
*Ephesians 6:10 – 12*  
*Acts 19:15*

There are certain things in life that Baptists fear. Obviously we fear Mickey Mouse; we boycotted Disney one year. Baptists after they get baptized are terrified of water. If it rains boy church is out. Third thing is we are terrified of anything that smacks of charismatic concepts. We love God. We love Jesus. We're not real sure about the Holy Spirit at times. Now we've come to a passage in 1 Timothy where we're going to have to address what he says and it deals with that very issue. As a matter of fact it's an important part of what he's saying. So we're going to begin in 1 Timothy 1, verses 18. We're going to walk through a couple verses until verse 20 so we see what he says. But this is an important passage for us because he does deal with something a lot of us are terrified of. Here he goes. He says:

<sup>18</sup>This same commandment I've delivered to you, my son Timothy, now here it is, according to the prophecies made earlier about you, that you might war, or fight, with these the good fight.

Now here's what he says. He says that on the day Timothy was ordained, and they did ordain people. The Bible talks about laying hands on people for ministry. So when they did that, there were a group of prophets there who obviously spoke, over Timothy, certain truths. Now prophets in the New Testament are the same as prophets in the Old Testament. It really wasn't so much foretelling as it was forth telling. The prophets mainly had a job of making statements about how Israel was to live. They really do the same things with Timothy here. They take him on the day of his ordination and they obviously laid out prophecy about who he was to be. Now unfortunately we have a day when people grabbed that kind of statement and they go crazy with it.

We have, if you'll, once in a while I'll get a notice that there's a prophecy conference going in town and they'll say it's in one particular room. What they'll do is they'll take 35 or 40 chairs and they'll put people in these chairs and this guy will come who ostensibly is a prophet and what he will do is he will go around to each person and he will tell them what God's going to do in their life. He'll walk up to this person and say, "You're going to be a pastor. You're going to be a doctor. You're going to be a lawyer. You're going to be in charge of the contract extension

for Nick Saban, University of Alabama.” And they’ll walk by giving everybody, sorry had to throw that in, they’ll give everybody a certain directive. And they walk around the room and when they’re done, everybody leaves going, “Wow! So that’s what God’s going to do.” Listen there is nowhere in the word of God where if you’re called to be a prophet that you all of a sudden know what God’s going to do with everybody’s life all the time. That is not in there. That is the Greek word *goofōs*. That’s our new word. That’s that kind of theology. It is, in English, goofy. So we’re not going to buy that. There is, though, and Paul makes this statement, that according to Timothy, were certain prophecies made to him and about him. Now the assumption is obviously here that they were positive. I remember when God called me to preach and everybody knew I was going to Alabama, I’d been accepted, and then I decided to shift to go to a Baptist school in Mississippi, Mississippi College. And, oh my, I had more than one guy utter a prophecy over me. They all said the same thing. They all said to me, “Listen, Chris, you really ought to stay at Alabama because in case this preaching thing doesn’t work out for you,” because their assumption was, knowing me, wasn’t any chance this thing was going any further than a couple of years. So the best thing for me to do was to get a secular education so I could fall back on it. I’m assuming the prophecies made about Timothy were not that negative. That they said some things to him under the Spirit’s utterance where they said to him, “Listen, this is what God wants to do through you and with you.” So they bring these utterances to him and here’s what he says. I want you, through these utterances, these prophecies that were laid upon you, I want you to through them, by their means, remember what they said to you and I want you to let them allow you to war the good war. Now that’s literally the word. If you translate it fight I understand that, and it can be, but it’s not boxing. It’s literally soldiering. It was used for soldiers on the battlefield. He says, “You are, Timothy, in a war.” Now where has he sent Timothy? In the book he sent him to Ephesus. Timothy’s the pastor there. He’s writing this letter to him to tell him how to pastor and what he ought to be as a pastor. And so he says, “You’re in a battle.”

Now we’re going to come back to 1 Timothy but I want you to look at two things with me. Look at Ephesians chapter 6. A couple of books over to the left. Look at Ephesians chapter 6 and listen. Remember this is where Timothy’s pastoring. Where he sent him. Here’s what Paul writes to them. Look at this. Chapter 6, verse 10.

<sup>10</sup>For the remainder, be empowered in the Lord and in the might that comes from his strength. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the methods, literally in the Greek, or the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>Our battle is not against flesh and blood,

Now if you want to translate that, here’s what that means. It’s not against the Republicans and the Democrats. OK. They’re flesh and blood. That’s not where the battle is.

but it is against rulers, authorities, world rulers of this darkness, spiritual evils in the heavenlies.

Now he says to the Ephesians, now I want you to listen, he says to them, “You’re in a spiritual battle.” So every one of you in this room that’s met Jesus Christ, you’re in a spiritual battle against forces, now listen, that you do not see. There are demons and angels in this room.

That's the biblical position. You don't see them. They live with you. They hover with you. Surely if angels are assigned, demons are assigned to you. Now let me show you how that works.

Look in Acts chapter 19, verse 15. Now we'll go from here back to 1 Timothy. But this is one of my favorite stories in the entire Bible. There were some Jewish guys who weren't believers but they saw Paul exorcising demons. So they decided they'd try, because Paul always had a certain thing he used, and they thought they'd use the magic formula and it would work. So they went up to this guy that was demon possessed and they said, "We command you in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches." Now the favorite ending to this story is, obviously it didn't work, this guy jumps out of them and runs them out of the house completely unclothed. It's one of my favorite stories in the Bible, would love to have been there to see that. But obviously, now the demon responds to these guys verbally. Here's what he says in verse 15. Now listen to this.

<sup>15</sup>But the unclean spirit, the evil spirit, answered and said to them, "I know Jesus, I have heard about Paul, but who are you?"

Now it's interesting to me. You have this demon who says, "I got who Jesus is. I don't know him but I've heard about him, Paul." So obviously demons have, like, coffee breaks. And they get around the Keurig, it's cold not hot, but they get around the Keurig and they talk about what they're facing. And in these coffee breaks the name Paul has surfaced. This demon says, "I've heard that name." Now if Paul had walked in the room where this demon is, the demon would have had no idea who he was. He's not assigned to him. That's not his area. He would have no idea who he is. But he has heard talk about him, because what Paul's doing in a spiritual battle is impacting the kingdom there. So there is a spiritual battle. You are engaged in it whether you see it or don't see it. So he writes to Timothy and he says, "Look. I want you to remember what they told you. And I want you to take those things that they told you and use them as you fight the good fight and you stand in the spiritual battle with the church that's in a spiritual battle and as you stand together in Ephesus, I want you to impact the area where you are. I want you to fight the good fight.

Now go back to 1 Timothy because here's obviously the question, right. Here's the question. If I don't see it, I don't see the demons, I don't see the angels, I don't see the fight, how do I engage in it? I mean how do I fight something spiritual I don't even see. There is activity in this room now. There are beings that are encouraging you to come to Christ and beings that are discouraging you coming to Christ. That's active in this room whether you see it or don't see it. Now the curious thing to me and I love this part of it, these demons, we're terrified of that word, but these demons in Acts 19 are scared of Paul. His name's come up and it bothers them. That name scares them. Now so we're surrounded in this room, by beings, we do not see. We are engaged in a spiritual battle we do not see. So how in the world are we engaged in something we don't see? How do we do this? Look at what he says; verse 19. I want you to use these prophecies made about you beforehand that you might war with them, the good war. Now listen:

<sup>19</sup>By, two things, having faith and a good conscience.

Now listen. Now listen carefully. You put your faith in what that book says and you are automatically impacting the Brazos Valley spiritually. Now there are two things that the Bible gives you. Really only two. It gives you principles of truth that if you believe, you pull into your life and it gives you promises that if you believe you stand on and wait for God to enact. Now that's it. That book is filled with principles that you pull down in your life and it's full of promises that you stand on. So when you put your faith in those things you impact in this spiritual battle. For example, Matthew 6:33 – seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you. There are many of you in this room that your life is seeking Christ and you let him worry about your money. You let him worry about your house size, your car size, everything you have you let him worry about, and you're focusing on Jesus Christ. That's what he says to do in Matthew and many of you are doing that.

Ephesians 5 talks about husband loving his wife and wife respecting her husband. Now there are many homes in here that are built on Ephesians 5 premise. You're building your home around your children obeying you, giving them Christ, husbands loving wives, wives respecting husbands, this mutual submission inside the home that reflects Jesus Christ. There are a lot of people in here that are doing that. 1 John 5 talks about the fact that we pray what he thinks we should pray. There are many in this room doing this. You're not just praying what you want, you're praying what he wants. So if you're seeking Christ, your home models Jesus, you're praying God's prayer, listen, you're impacting a spiritual realm in the Brazos Valley whether you see it or not see it. You're in the battle. If your life is walking toward Christ, your home reflects Jesus, you're praying things into existence because you're praying what God tells you to pray, listen, your life is impacting. There are a number of you in this room that the demons assigned to the Brazos Valley would not recognize you if you walked in the room. But they have discussed your name. I think the greatest complement that you can give a believer when he dies is that when he dies the demons in this area relax. I don't think there's any better complement you can give a believer. He dies, the demons are going, "Woo! Great!!" Well they wouldn't make that sign, but there, we're live streaming aren't we. Well praise God! OK. Whatever sign the demons would make when you die, you want them to pumped that you're gone. I think the greatest complement we can make is that they relax when we're gone. So you're in a battle. You may not see it. You may not feel it. It doesn't matter. You're in it because you believe what God says and you stand on the promises. And he says having a good conscience. Remember earlier, verse 5, he talked about the fact that our conscience is tuned, you tune your own conscience, by the way, so if I get into the word, my conscience, according to that verse, is tuned into the word of God so that now if I'm sitting here and I'm walking toward Christ, I'm building my home in Jesus, I'm praying the correct things, I'm living out Biblical principles, standing on the promises, then I have two things. The Holy Spirit in my and my conscience. When I begin to step away, they pull me back to I stay better walking straight where I'm supposed to walk impacting the demons in my culture because my conscience holds me to the truth which, as I stand on it, impacts demonic warfare.

Now so if I'm doing that, let's suppose you're doing that, you're walking towards Christ, you're home's where it ought to be, you're trying to build on the principles and promises of scripture. What is he going to do? Look at the very next thing, 1 Timothy, look at what he says:

<sup>19</sup>having faith and a good conscience. From which some have rejected and have shipwrecked their faith,

What's the first thing he's going to do? This is why you try to have a good conscience. It's why you want your conscience in tune with the word of God. So that as you're walking, Satan's goal in your life is going to be to cause you to pull away from those promises and those principles to reject them because that's the way he damages you in a spiritual warfare. If you pull away from those things, you're now not impacting him at all. So his goal is to pull you away from those things and to cause you, now listen, to cause you to shipwreck your faith. Now that metaphor means nothing to us really. A bunch of you that do those cruise ship things, well y'all just have a good day. But nobody worries about those things sinking, shipwrecking, because what? Call the Coast Guard. They'll send the helicopter out, you've got plenty of lifeboats, you've got life vests, you can sit there and float for a little while until somebody comes to pick you out of the water. We don't worry about shipwrecking. But in this day there was not frightening metaphor than shipwrecking. There was no Coast Guard. There are no lifeboats and there were no life vests. You're out in the water, you shipwreck, you're gone. That metaphor was terrifying to the people reading this book. Timothy would have been terrified. Now there are two ways you shipwreck. One is circumstances cause your ship to flounder. That does not happen in the life of a believer. If you stand on God's principles and his promises, there is not a single circumstance that can shipwreck your faith. You shipwreck your faith when you turn away from the principles and promises. The Titanic is the perfect example of turning away from a principle and a promise. They build this great ship, right, they're heading across the Atlantic. Captain gets word there are icebergs that have been sighted. Now a normal captain, living off that, would employ a principle which would be, "Let's slow the ship down so that we can see the iceberg in time." You can't just turn a ship like a car so that when we see the iceberg and we'll have time if we see it soon enough and we're going slow enough. We can turn away from it and if it does hit us, the promise would be that it would do less damage and we've got these hulls designed so that water will only come in while, it will do less damage, and with the promise and the principle, we'll make it home. But the owner of the line said, "No. I want you to go fast as you can go. Full steam." So they violated the principle and by the time they saw the iceberg, obviously had no time to turn, it ripped the entire panel away, broke the promise, damaged things, and the Titanic, in an hour and a half, went down with hundreds of lives lost. There is no circumstance in the world that can shipwreck your faith. You shipwreck your own when you step away from the principles and you don't stand on the promises. You shipwreck your faith and you damage, and when you shipwreck it, you hinder who you are in this war. Now, well preacher, I've done that. I've shipwrecked my faith. I quit standing on the principles. I quit standing on the promises. My life's been wrecked, I've lost my family, I've lost this, I've wrecked a lot of things, and I'm telling you, I'm shipwrecked. So my assumption is I'm dead. Look at this. He says:

<sup>20</sup>there are some who have shipwrecked their faith, they have rejected and shipwrecked their faith, of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I've delivered over to Satan that they may taught not to

What's the next word? Yeah. That's the Greek word. It's not the English word. The Greek word is *blasphémias*. So the word isn't translated here. The Greek word *blasphémias* means not

to, we take blaspheme as, “Oh, my gosh, I’ve said something really vile about God.” No, no, no, no, no. Blaspheme, the Greek word literally just means to speak against God. I disagree with him. Now listen to what he says. He names two guys that they obviously know, we don’t, but he names two guys and he says, “These guys shipwrecked their faith, I’ve delivered them over to Satan.” A unique phrase that we find in 1 Corinthians, where basically what he says is, “I’ve kicked them out of the church. So that when they get out here and get in this realm, they’ll realize their wrong and look at this:

so that they will learn, *pedagogy*, the Greek word here, so that they will learn not to, what, speak against the truth.

He says, now watch this, he says, “They started out with truth, they’ve abandoned it, they’ve shipwrecked their own faith, I’ve kicked them out of the church, but the reason I did that is not to beat them up when they’re down, my purpose is that they will learn not to reject the truth so that they can come back and rebuild who they are. You never reach a place where God’s completely done. You shipwrecked your faith, I understand it, I see it. When we had a pastor’s conference here a couple weeks ago, it’s one of the things that I talked about. I see a lot of friends shipwreck their faith. I’m going to tell you something. You’re in a war. You stand on the principles, you stand on the promises, the enemy’s coming. Don’t care. If his demons are afraid of you, it’s for good reason. He’s nervous about you or he won’t come. But I don’t care what Satan does. I don’t care how he’s in your life. I don’t care how many demons he assigns to you. That book and its truth and its promises overcome every single demon that’s ever lived. They can’t damage you. They can’t have you. We want to impact the Brazos Valley. I don’t care how many people come to this church. I really don’t. I do care whether or not we in this room impact this valley. We’re in a battle. We’re in a war. Now listen. If I stand on his principles and his promises that the enemy can’t win. I want to die and when I die the demons relax until those people that I’ve disciplined in my life appear and take my place and cause even more havoc than I’ve caused. I want the full circle when I die.

Let’s pray.