

Contending For The Faith

1 Timothy 1:3-18

Fight The Good Fight – 1 Timothy 1:18

Because...

1. Some will **teach strange doctrines** nor understand what they're teaching. Verses 3-7
2. Some will **practice things contrary** to God's will. Verses 8-11
3. Paul personally understood **what the truth of God's word can accomplish**. Verses 12-17
4. **Some have turned back** and suffered "shipwreck of faith." Verses 19-20

Jude 3

Jude in like manner writes "appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints".

Jude says because of "Our Common Salvation"...

Same lost condition – Romans 3:23

Same message preached – 1 Corinthians 4:17

Same faith exercised – 2 Peter 1:1; James 2:14-26

Same obedience rendered – Acts 2:38; 8:12

All added to one body – Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:41, 47

Our salvation depends on our obedience to this charge.

Contending Earnestly for the Faith

"Contend" defined:

- *W. E. Vine*: "ep**agoniz**omai – signifies "to contend about a thing, **as a combatant**... The word 'earnestly' is added to convey the **intensive force** of the preposition."
- *Wuest*: "...used of athletes contending in the athletic contests... a **vigorous, intense, determined struggle** to defeat the opposition."

"Contend" by whom?

- **Elders** – Titus 1:9-11
- **Preachers** – 2 Timothy 4:2-4; 1 Timothy 4:15-16
- **Parents** – Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- **All Brethren** – 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Ephesians 4:11-16

“Contend” against whom?

- **Satan** – 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:12-15; Revelation 12:9-11;
- **False Teachers** – 2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:16; Acts 20:29-32; Acts 18:24-28; 2 Timothy 2:23-25
- **Brethren in sin** – 1 Corinthians 5:1-2; Galatians 2:11-14; 6:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:19
- **Self-will** – 2 Corinthians 13:5; Matthew 16:24; Galatians 5:17

What is the purpose when we “Contend”?

- **Not just to win arguments, justify ourselves or seek personal gain** – 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 20; 1:3-4; Luke 16:15; Titus 1:10-11
- **It is about the salvation of souls** – Jude 3, 20-24; Romans 10:1; Acts 26:16-18; Luke 19:10
- **It is about defending the truth of God’s word** – 1 Timothy 3:15

What Is The Manner Of Our Contending?

- **Earnestly** – Jude 3; Titus 2:14
- **Honestly** – 2 Corinthians 1:12; 2:17
- **Humbly** – Acts 20:18-20; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:2
- **Lovingly** – Ephesians 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- **Courageously & Boldly** – Ephesians 6:18-20
- **Patiently** – 2 Timothy 4:2

With What Do We Contend?

- **The scriptures** – Acts 18:28; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; Ephesians 6:14-17
- **With logic, reason and persuasion** – Acts 17:1-2; 18:4; 26:24-29
- **With spiritual wisdom and not human wisdom** – 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5
- **With what God promised would work** – Isaiah 55:8-11

What Is “The Faith”?

- We learn in scriptures what “the faith” is:
 - **What God has revealed to us** – Galatians 3:23
 - **The word of God** (verse 7); **the faith** (verse 8); **the teaching or doctrine of the Lord** (verse 12) – all refer to **the same body of revealed divine knowledge**. Acts 13:1-13; Galatians 1:11, 23

Once For All Delivered

- The complete revelation has come – 1 Corinthians 13:9-10
- God has already given us “**all things**” that pertain to “**life and godliness**” – 2 Peter 1:3
- God’s scripture is able to make man to be “**furnished completely**” – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Personal Application

- I am personally responsible for knowing what God has revealed.
- I am personally responsible for believing and obeying the faith.
- I am personally responsible for contending for it in my life.