COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Study Guide

Ready to Fight

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Major Points

1. **The church must stand firm on the truth of God's Word rather than conforming to cultural pressures or personal opinions**
   1 Timothy 1:3
2. **Remembering God's calling and gifting is essential fuel for persevering in difficult ministry**
   1 Timothy 4:14
3. **The goal of all true teaching is love that flows from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith**
   1 Timothy 1:5
4. **False doctrine shipwrecks faith and destroys marriages, families, and churches at every level**
   2 Timothy 2:17-18
5. **God is sovereign even over Satan and uses discipline and trials to bring people to repentance and restoration**
   Job 2:6

Key Quotes

> *We don't talk about being a church. You know, we talk about what the church has to offer us as opposed to how God's working through us as He puts us in the church so that His name will be proclaimed in the nations*
> at 1:11

> *Ministry, true ministry is hard. Doing cheap ministry is easy. And we'll talk about that in a minute. Cheap ministry is where there's no cost, where there's no sacrifice, where there's no commitment, where there's no danger, where we're safe, where we don't really have to put ourselves out there.*
> at 21:19

> *If you think I can back away from the gospel and bless this man or anybody else for that matter, you're mistaken.*
> at 27:45

> *Sound doctrine brings about life at every avenue of our lives, but false doctrine brings destruction at every avenue of our life.*
> at 27:57

> *Even the devil is God's devil.*
> at 47:40

> *God will use His Word. We've got to trust Him. Are you ready to fight?*
> at 57:44

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between 'going to church' and 'being the church,' and how does that distinction change the way we approach our faith community?

2. Paul reminded Timothy of the prophecies spoken over him to fuel his perseverance. What moments of God's calling or confirmation in your own life can you recall to strengthen you when ministry or faithfulness gets difficult?

3. The sermon describes 'cheap ministry' versus 'true ministry.' What are some practical ways we might be settling for cheap ministry, and what would it look like to move toward costly, committed service?

4. How do we hold the tension between speaking the truth of God's Word and doing so with a 'good conscience' rooted in love rather than self-righteousness or manipulation?

5. The passage describes handing Hymenaeus and Alexander over to Satan for correction. How should the modern church think about discipline and accountability for those who persistently teach false doctrine?

Word Studies

παραγγελίαν
parangelia

Greek

A command, charge, or instruction passed along from a superior authority. In military usage it referred to an order transmitted down the chain of command, emphasizing that Paul's charge to Timothy carried the weight of divine authority, not merely personal advice.

Usage: 5 times

στρατείαν
strateia

Greek

A military campaign or warfare. Paul uses this term to describe the Christian life of ministry as an extended military engagement, not a single battle. It implies sustained effort, strategy, and endurance under a commanding officer (God).

Usage: 2 times

ναυαγέω
nauageo

Greek

To suffer shipwreck; to be utterly ruined or destroyed. Paul uses this vivid nautical metaphor to describe the total devastation that comes from rejecting faith and a good conscience. The image conveys catastrophic, not gradual, loss.

Usage: 2 times

Cross References

Jude 1:3
Jude urges believers to 'contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints,' directly paralleling Paul's charge to Timothy to fight the good fight for sound doctrine.

Titus 1:9-11
Paul instructs Titus that an elder must hold firmly to the faithful word and be able to refute those who contradict sound teaching, showing this charge was not unique to Timothy but a standard for all church leaders.

Matthew 18:15-17
Jesus outlines the process of church discipline that escalates from private confrontation to public action, providing the framework behind Paul's drastic action of handing Hymenaeus and Alexander over to Satan.

2 Corinthians 2:5-8

Paul urges the Corinthians to forgive and restore the man previously handed over for discipline (likely the same man from 1 Corinthians 5), showing that the purpose of church discipline is always restoration, not punishment.

Isaiah 55:10-11

God declares that His Word will not return void but will accomplish what He purposes, undergirding the sermon's central call to trust the power of Scripture rather than human persuasion.

Further Reading

- **The Courage to Be Protestant**
  by David F. Wells
- **Guard the Deposit: Recovering the Purpose of the Pastoral Epistles**
  by William D. Mounce
- **Nine Marks of a Healthy Church**
  by Mark Dever

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
1 Timothy 3:15	Read Aloud	0:30	*But if I should be delayed, I've written so that y...*
1 Timothy 1:18-20	Read Aloud	9:00	*Timothy, my son, I am giving you this instruction ...*
Philippians 2:19-22	Read Aloud	12:00	*Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to yo...*
1 Timothy 4:14	Read Aloud	18:40	*Don't neglect the gift that is in you. It was give...*
2 Timothy 1:6	Read Aloud	19:40	*Therefore I remind you to rekindle the gift of God...*
Acts 13:2-3	Read Aloud	24:00	*As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the ...*
1 Timothy 1:5	Referenced	29:00	*The goal of our instruction is love that comes fro...*
John 15:5	Read Aloud	38:30	*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides...*
1 Corinthians 5:3-5	Read Aloud	54:40	*Even though I'm absent in the body, I'm present in...*
Job 2:3-6	Read Aloud	55:40	*Then the Lord said to Satan, have you considered m...*
2 Timothy 2:16-18	Read Aloud	52:20	*Avoid irreverent and empty speech, since those who...*
2 Timothy 4:14-15	Read Aloud	53:00	*Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. Th...*