"Fight the Good Fight"

I. In loving concern for Christ and His church, of which he was a ____________, Paul instructed Timothy writing: “remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may ___________ certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith”. (1 Tim 1:3-4)

A. Paul ____________ Timothy with the command of Christ for His church: silence false teachers. And so has Christ entrusted the same command to us. As we have the Written Word of God before us the commands come to us as strongly as they did to Timothy. We are entrusted ____________ with the care of His church. It is, therefore, our sacred duty to silence false teachers.

B. Paul ____________ Timothy not as a general over a subordinate nor a taskmaster over a slave, but as a loving father commands his own ____________ son. This is needed in the church, where commands are given and received in loving relationships, in ________ as a loving parent to their child, as shepherds lovingly caring for the sheep, seeking to ____________ and direct them toward Christ, and in the case of this text, to assure them in their calling, duty and authority.

C. Paul ____________ Timothy in his calling by reminding him of the prophecies previously made. We are assured of our calling to Christ and our ministry to His church through the Written Word of God. The ____________ is our ____________, even as the Spirit within us bears witness.

D. Paul ____________ Timothy to fight the good fight, which would be an ongoing campaign. As the Word comes to us ____ ________ called to fight the good fight. The danger that faced the church then faces the church today. The campaign is ongoing! Who will spend their life fighting the good fight?

E. Paul ____________ Timothy for this difficult ministry by exhorting him to busy himself with the keeping of his faith and a good conscience. If we plan to carry out the ministry of Christ in His church we must then be equipped with the divine weaponry which ____________ ______________, keeping the faith and a good conscience.

1. Those who ______ in keeping the faith and a good conscience are assured of failure. Those who cast aside the faith ____________ the shipwreck of their soul. There go we unless by the grace of God we busy ourselves ____________ the faith and a good conscience by which then we are also equipped and prepared to denounce false teachers by the ____________ of the true gospel of God.
F. Paul set an ______________ before Timothy that if necessary, of love for the ship-wrecked, that he too would take drastic measure to drive unrepentant false teachers out of the church, and to ____________ ___________ of the false teacher's soul, that they would come to repentance. Our calling is no less the same – the Scripture is before us.

Closing: We who trust in Christ have the ______________ ______________ to us, and it is ours by the Word of God to watch over the church, protect the Lord's bride from the ever-present danger of those who seek to ravage her through false teachings.

We must ______________ the command to silence the false teachers as our own, preparing ourselves then for this good fight by keeping ourselves in the __________ with a good conscience.

And under the auspices of Christ we must rightly and lovingly ______________ the ______________ of Christ through the proclamation of His Word, seeking the purity of the church and in hopes that the erring will come to repentance.

We cannot shrink back, but it is our duty to ______________ our ______________ by fighting the good fight for the exaltation of our good Savior, for He is the Christ of God, the Savior of the church!

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.
Martin Luther, 1529