

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2008**

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE BELIEVERS

Message Forty-Seven

**Their Present—Experiencing the Dispensing
of the Divine Trinity in Fighting the Good Fight
and in Running the Course of the Race**

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; 1 Cor. 9:24; Heb. 12:1-3

I. The believers experience the dispensing of the Divine Trinity in fighting the good fight—2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12a:

- A. “I have fought the good fight”—2 Tim. 4:7a:
1. A proper Christian life involves fighting the good fight against Satan and his kingdom of darkness and for the interests of God’s kingdom—Eph. 6:10-19.
 2. The “good fight” is the fight for the contents of the complete gospel according to God’s New Testament economy—1 Tim. 1:3-4.
 3. Whenever we minister Christ to others, we find ourselves in a battle; hence, we should be soldiers fighting for God’s interests—2 Tim. 2:3-4.
- B. “This charge I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you might war the good warfare”—1 Tim. 1:18:
1. To war the good warfare is to war against the different teachings of the dissenters and to carry out God’s economy according to the apostles’ ministry—vv. 3-4; 6:3.
 2. God’s economy in faith is versus differing teachings—1:3-4:
 - a. Differing teachings refer to teachings that are not in line with the economy of God—6:3.
 - b. The differing teachings in 1:3-4, 6-7 and in 6:3-5, 20-21 and the heresies in 4:1-3 are the seed, the source, of the church’s decline, degradation, and deterioration.
 - c. Teaching differently tears down God’s building and annuls God’s economy; even a small amount of teaching in a different way destroys the recovery.
 - d. The crucial point of the healthy teaching of the apostolic ministry concerns the Triune God processed to dispense Himself as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit into His chosen ones so that they may be brought into an organic union to receive the divine transfusion and thereby become sons of God and members of Christ and thus become the Body of Christ to express Christ—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; 12:12-13, 27.

- C. “Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold on the eternal life, to which you were called”—1 Tim. 6:12:
1. To fight the good fight of the faith is to fight for God’s New Testament economy; in particular, it is to fight for Christ as the embodiment of God and for the church as the Body of Christ—Col. 2:9; 1:18.
 2. A proper Christian life involves keeping the faith for participation in the divine riches in God’s economy—1 Tim. 1:19; 3:9; 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:7; Titus 1:4.
 3. As those who would fight the good fight of the faith, we need to lay hold on eternal life—1 Tim. 6:12:
 - a. To fight this good fight, especially in the ministry, we need to lay hold on this divine life and not trust in our human life—v. 19.
 - b. We fight the good fight of the faith not only objectively but also subjectively by laying hold on eternal life.
 4. We must “contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints”—Jude 3.

II. The believers experience the dispensing of the Divine Trinity in running the course of the race—1 Cor. 9:24; Heb. 12:1; 2 Tim. 4:7:

- A. “Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold”—1 Cor. 9:24:
1. The Christian life is a race that we must run successfully, with the prize—an incorruptible crown—as an incentive—v. 25.
 2. We run “not as though without a clear aim” but with a definite goal—v. 26.
- B. “Let us...run with endurance the race which is set before us, looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith”—Heb. 12:1-2a:
1. After we were saved, God put us in a race that is aimed directly at the kingdom—v. 28; Matt. 6:33.
 2. We need to run with endurance because there is much opposition to the Christian race; in order to run this race, we must suffer the opposition with endurance, never growing weary or fainting in our souls—Heb. 12:1, 3.
 3. The believers run the course of this race by “looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith”—v. 2:
 - a. The Greek word translated “looking away unto” means looking with undivided attention by turning away from every other object.
 - b. In running the race, we need to turn away from everything other than Christ and look to Him with undivided attention.
 - c. The wonderful Jesus, who is the Author and Perfecter of our faith and who is enthroned in heaven and crowned with glory and honor, is the greatest attraction in the universe, like an immense magnet drawing all His seekers unto Him—2:9; 12:2.
 - d. It is by being attracted by His charming beauty that we look away from all things other than Him so that we may run with endurance the race which is set before us.
 4. The believers need to run the course of the race to the end and thus be able to say with Paul, “I have finished the course”—2 Tim. 4:7.