

How to Avoid a Shipwrecked Faith

I Tim. 1:18-20

We must expect our Christian life to be a continual fight. 18

- ◆ Warfare imagery: II Cor. 10:3-5, Phil. 2:25, II Tim. 2:3,4, Eph. 6:10-20
- ◆ Timothy is so unique yet still warned, 4:16, 6:12-21, II Tim. 1:14,15.
What should this suggest to us?

We need to fight well or our faith can suffer shipwreck. 19,20

- ◆ Alexander's identity is uncertain but see II Tim. 2:14 for Hymenaeus.
- ◆ Why use shipwreck imagery for the men? Other descriptions of faith-failures mentioned in Timothy: 4:1, 5:8, 6:10,20-21, II Tim. 2:18.
- ◆ These two must be believers (leaders?) since they are being *delivered over to Satan* (I Cor. 5:3ff./Job 2:6), and it's remedial. If not believers then how a warning for Timothy!?
- ◆ The goal of delivering them over to Satan (3:7, 5:15) is to be *taught* (a child-rearing term for Christian discipline, I Cor. 11:32, Rev. 3:19, Heb. 12:6-11) not to blaspheme (speak ill of apostolic teachings).
- ◆ How we can avoid shipwreck: *keeping faith and a good conscience* (1:5). A good conscience is crucial, 4:2, Titus 1:15, Heb. 9:14,13:18, I Pt. 3:16, Acts 24:16.

What a conscience is supposed to do for us:

