

1. Hold onto the true Christian faith.

Keep the Christian faith (hold on to the truth God has revealed) because it's true and because belief informs behavior. Believe the right stuff.

Option 1: The word "faith" in verse 19 refers to Timothy's personal **trust** in God.

Option 2: The word "faith" in verse 19 refers to the faith, the **doctrinal** truths of Christianity.

A. The word "faith" in the next phrase (vs. 20) has the Greek word "the" in front of it, not the possessive pronoun "their".

B. Paul's charge to Timothy in verse 3 is re-issued here in verse 18, and the charge concerns defending the doctrinal purity against those who are teaching error.

C. The context of the book of 1 Timothy favors option 2.

D. In the NT church doctrinal purity was very important, so much so that you could be kicked out (**excommunicated**) if you persisted in teaching error.

2. Hold on to a good conscience by **living out** the Christian faith.

Do what God's Word says you should do. Do what God's Word says is right. Don't do what God's Word says not to do. Behave the right way.

A. What is my conscience?

- The conscience is that non-material part of you that bears witness to your conduct.

According to the Bible the conscience may be

- ✓ a **good** conscience
- ✓ a clear or **clean** conscience
- ✓ a **blameless** conscience
- ✓ a **weak** conscience
- ✓ a **defiled** conscience
- ✓ a **seared** conscience

- A clear conscience is sensitive to sin, responsive to the Holy Spirit, and is both the well-spring of and the result of obedience to God's will. It is key for living an effective Christian life.

B. Why is keeping my conscience good (clean or clear) important?

- Purity:
- Authenticity:
- Fellowship:
- Spiritual Sensitivity:
- Protection:
- Effectiveness:

C. How can I maintain a good conscience?

- First, you must **get** a good conscience to start with.
- Second, listen to your conscience, which should be informed by the **Bible**, and do what it is telling you to do.
- Third, when you sin, immediately repent, confess, and forsake that sin, so that your fellowship with God and man may be restored. (1 John 1:9) Daily confession is like taking a **spiritual bath**. It's spiritual maintenance.

Message

Want to be effective for Jesus?
Just behave biblical beliefs.

So What? Now What? Action Points:

- Get to know your Bible. Attend Sunday School. Join a fold.
- Practice obedience. Keep your conscience sensitive.
- Bath everyday, spiritually. Confess and clean your conscience.
- _____
- _____