**Elder Berry Ross January 5, 2020**

**New Year, Same Fight!**

1 Timothy 6:1-21

**Key Truth:** Many Christians are characterized as champions for Christ due to their continued fight to press on in spite of many life difficulties.

1. The fight is more serious than you think.

 A. The fight will last longer than you can imagine.

 B. Knowing who to fight is very important.

 C. Understanding why you are fighting is vital.

2. Use biblical tactics in the fight.

 A. Sometimes fleeing is ok.

 B. Incorporate the disciplines of biblical champions.

 C. Fight this fight with all that is within you.

3. Keys to perseverance in the fight:

 A. Protect the gospel God has given us.

 B. Internalize our commitment to Christ.

 C. Share with others how to do what you know.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Embrace this New Year with the fighting attitude of a champion for Christ.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Aside from your decision to follow Christ, what are some of the most important decisions you have made in your life? How might your life be different today if you had chosen differently?

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16: Why is it important that we not only flee from worldly attitudes and actions, but also replace them with Godly pursuits?

Which of these virtues do you find most difficult to practice?

Why did Paul describe the Christian life as a fight (v. 12)? How might viewing the Christian life as “the good fight of the faith” change the way you approach spiritual growth?

Read Hebrews 12:1-4: Why do you think the writer separates “sin” and “everything that hinders” in this passage?

What are some things that aren’t necessarily sin, but might keep us from pursing Christ?

How might your priorities need to change in order for you to grow in the virtues Paul lists in 1 Timothy 6:11?

What is something you can lay aside this year in order to more freely seek after Christ?