FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

I Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

The noun and verb both translated fight in this verse together occur 14 times in the New Testament and are translated five times by a form of the word fight and by nine other words in both the New American Standard and NIV translations.

The noun is *“agon”* which originally meant a place of assembly for public contests and came to mean a contest or conflict. The verb derived from it is *“agonizomai”* and means to contend in an athletic contest, to fight, to engage in conflict. We get the English words “agonize” and “agony” from the verb.

I Corinthians 9:25a Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training.

(Emphasis added)

John 18:36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

Colossians 1:28&29 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. (Emphasis added)

“The World Is a Battlefield, Not an Amusement Park” (Chip Ingram)

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

2 Corinthians 4:3&4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel the displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

John 8:32, 33, 34, 36 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free…Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin…So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

John 8:44 “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Current Major Battlefields

Salvation Only in Christ

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Acts 4:11&12 “Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Creation Not Evolution

Romans 1:18-20 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

“Neither of the two fundamental axioms of Darwin’s macroevolutionary theory – the concept of the continuity of nature, that is, the idea of a functional continuum of all life forms linking all species together and ultimately leading back to a primeval cell, and the belief that all the adaptive design of life has resulted from a blind random process – have been validated by one single empirical discovery or scientific advance since 1859.” EVOLUTION: A THEORY IN CRISIS. 1985. Michael Denton

God Has Defined What Is Right and What Is Wrong in the Bible, and Everyone Will Be Judged by God Based on Their Obedience to His Standards

Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Romans 14:10b-12 For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. It is written: “ ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God’ ” So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Exodus 21:22-25 “If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman’s husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.”

I Corinthians 6:9&10 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Matthew 19:4&5 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?”

Preparing for the Fight

I Corinthians 9:24&25 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Spend time in the Word and prayer every day.

Try to obey everything God is telling you through the Word and your conscience.

Make it a priority to admit to God and others that you are wrong when you are.

Do not give up meeting together (both large and small groups).

Share your faith.

Learn how to present the Gospel and to defend what the Bible teaches.

Things to Remember

“The world is a battlefield, not an amusement park.”

It is a spiritual war, fought with spiritual weapons, about truth verses lies.

The current major battlefields are:

 Salvation only through faith in Christ.

 Creation not Evolution

 God defines what is right and wrong and we will be judged by Him.

 Abortion

 LGBTQ objectives