

The Fight Is Not Over

I. Introduction:

A. In the Scriptures, the life of a Christian is referred to as a fight (**I Timothy 6:11-12**).

1. We strive [fight] to enter at the straight gate (**Luke 13:23-24**).
2. We strive for the mastery [fight] to finish (**I Corinthians 9:24-27** and **II Timothy 4:6-8**).
3. We have to war a good warfare (**I Timothy 1:18-20**).
4. We see the imagery of armor (**Ephesians 6:10-17**).
5. Weapons that are not carnal (**II Corinthians 10:1-5**).
6. Evangelists were taught to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ (**II Timothy 2:1-4**).

B. If we look backwards, there were those among God's people that simply got too comfortable, off guard, complacent (**Isaiah 32:9-11** and **Amos 6:1-4**).

1. Do we really want to take ease (**Luke 12:13-21**)?
2. How does the Lord expect to find us when He comes (**Luke 12:35-40**)?
3. We talk of working until the time comes for a rest (**Hebrews 4:9-11**).
What about fighting until the fight is over (**II Timothy 4:6-8**; cf. **Revelation 2:10**)?

II. Body: Let Us Watch and Be Sober (**I Thessalonians 5:1-10**).

A. What does it mean to watch (**I Corinthians 16:13**)?

1. "Keep awake, i.e. watch (literally or figuratively): — be vigilant, wake, (be) watch(-ful)..." (Strong's # 1127).
2. In other words, be alert (**I Corinthians 15:34**).
3. Those not alert are perceived as dead (**Ephesians 5:14-17**).

B. What does it mean to be sober (**Titus 2:2-6**)?

1. In **verse 2** is about abstaining from wine. In **verse 4**: "To make of sound mind, i.e. (figuratively) to discipline or correct: — teach to be sober..." (Strong's # 4994). In **verse 6** "To be of sound mind, i.e. sane, (figuratively) moderate: — be in right mind, be sober (minded), soberly..." (Strong's # 4993).
2. The idea of all three words in **Titus 2:2-6** is to be capable of being alert; in the right frame of mind (**I Peter 1:13-16**).
3. Even with spiritual gifts in play in the first century, where some might not need to give thought (**Matthew 10:16-20**), a sound mind was of great need (**II Timothy 1:7**).

C. What are some of the things we are watching with alertness for (**Revelation 3:2-3**)?

1. The return of our Lord (**Matthew 24:42-51**).

2. Figuratively speaking - Satan, his followers, Satan's will (**Ephesians 4:27** and **I Peter 5:8-9**; cf. **Acts 4:32-5:10** and **I John 3:8-10**).
3. Erring brethren (**Acts 20:28-31**).
 - a. This is NOT just about brethren teaching false doctrine. What about influence (**I Corinthians 15:33**)?
 - b. False doctrine is a leaven to be aware of (**Galatians 5:7-9**), but not the only leaven to be aware of (**I Corinthians 5:1-8**).
4. Those that creep in unawares need contended with **Jude 1:3-4** without violating **Matthew 7:6**, **II Timothy 2:14**, **II Timothy 2:23**, **Titus 3:9-11**, etc.
5. Watch as not to enter into temptation (**Mark 14:38**).

III. Conclusion: We are not in Heaven yet. Live like you understand that (**Philippians 3:7-21**).