

1. Last week I taught 1Ti 6:11 and when the clock tolled noon we had just begun an analysis of verse twelve.
2. Before returning to the exegesis of verse twelve I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may be necessary.
3. Let me first give you an expanded translation of 1Ti 6:9-11.

Expanded Translation

1Ti 6:9 All, and that includes pastor-teachers, who have an inordinate desire for wealth will invariably fall into temptation and become entrapped into many foolish and harmful desires. Such desires will plunge them into ruin and destruction.

1Ti 6:10 For you see the love of money is and keeps on being the root of all kinds of evil and some because of their craving have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with a great deal of pain and suffering.

1Tim 6:11 But you, man of God, avoid all these things, i.e., materialism lust. Strive for the process of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patient endurance, and gentleness.

4. Paul's imperative for Timothy is to fight the good fight.

KJV-New Sentence

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

NIV

1Ti 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.

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT Αγωνιζομαι ο καλος αγων

1. **Agonizomai Ho Kalos Agon** is better translated "Now Timothy, it is important for you to fight the good fight as one competing before many witnesses ..."
2. **Agonizomai** is a verb parsed as a 2nd person singular, present active imperative followed by the monadic noun **Kalos** declined as an accusative singular and the noun **Agon** which is also declined as an accusative singular.
3. **Agonizomai** is where we get our word agonize. As a delegated apostle fighting the good fight includes doing the work of a pastor teacher, particularly in Ephesus during the absence of Paul.

3.1 **Agonizomai** appears seven times in the New Testament where it is translated “strive, fight, would fight, have fought, laboring, laboring fervently” and “that striveth.” Examples:

Luk 13:24 **Strive** to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Luk 13:25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

Luk 13:26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.

Luk 13:27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

Luk 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Luk 13:29 And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

Luk 13:30 And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

Joh 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would **fight** to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

1Co 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

1Co 9:23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

1Co 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So, run that ye may obtain.

1Co 9:25 And every man that **striveth** for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1Co 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so, fight (***Pukteuo** is better translated I box*), not as one that beateth the air:

1Co 9:27 But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Col 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Col 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, **striving** according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always **wrestling** in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

Col 4:13 I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have **finished** the race, I have kept the faith.

4. **Agon** is most often used to describe a place of contest, stadium or a race course. The meaning also is used to describe a competitor giving an all-out effort before a great crowd. Examples:

Phi 1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

Phi 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Phi 1:30 Having the same **conflict** which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

1Th 2:2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with **much contention**.

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience **the race** that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for (**αντι**-instead of, against) the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good **fight**, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

5. Now let's see how our verse looks so far by way of an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

1Ti 6:11 Now Timothy, it is important for you to strive as one competing in the Corinthian Games; fighting the fight ..."

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