



*. . . A time to tear,
And a time to sew;
A time to keep
silence; And a time to
speak; A time to love,
And a time to hate; A
time of war,*

And a time of peace. Eccles. 3:7-8

Solomon said there was a time for ‘most everything. I was looking for “a time to fight and a time to flee,” but I suppose this may be included in the times listed above.

Most of us seem to like a good fight. I do, sometimes to Gail’s dismay. We are taught to fight! *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

I Timothy 6:12

Paul even lists the armor we are to use and says, *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

Ephesians 6:13

Yes, there are times when we, as Christians, must fight. With the situation our country is getting into, we will have to fight more and more. But, this is not today’s subject. There is also a time to flee. It seems cowardly to flee and most of us don’t like to do so. But, we are admonished to flee just as we are admonished to fight.

Flee sexual immorality. *Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.*

I Corinthians 6:18

There are some things we are not able to fight and must flee. Paul lists one above. A good example of this is found in Genesis when Potiphar’s wife’s temptations became too much for Joseph, . . . *when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.*

Genesis 39:11-12

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

I Corinthians 10:14

I don’t suppose any of you are tempted to worship Baal and Molech or other pagan idols. There are other objects which may become idols: that new Sports Utility Vegicle you want to drive around in, the Rolex watch you’ve had your eyes on (I have purposely omitted digital cameras from the list). These can all become idols. Is it wrong to possess these things? No, not if they do not interfere with your relationship with God. If they do, flee from them (or sell them). Dispose of things which get in the way of your walk with God.

*But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, **flee these things** and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.*

I Timothy 6:9-11

When temptations come along, we may be able to overcome some, but others are too strong to overcome. Nevertheless, God has given us the promise, *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the **way of escape**, that you may be able to bear it.* I Corinthians 10:13

He will provide a way for you to escape, to flee, to avoid it. I suppose one of the greatest temptations to a good fight is when someone is teaching false doctrine. *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.* Romans 16:17

According to Paul’s word here, don’t fight with them, avoid them, “flee” from them, have nothing to do with them. So, while there are times to fight, there are also times to flee. Lord, give us the wisdom to know which is which!

Wayne

