



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## Fight the Good Fight

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“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.” 1 Timothy 6:12

Many wars are fought to advance the ideology of one group of people. Different belief systems conflict and war erupts. That ideology may involve varying ways to govern. i.e. Monarchy, Democratic, Dictatorship, Socialist, Communist, etc. Other wars are fought because of varying religious beliefs in conflict with one another. i.e. Judaism, Islam, Christianity (loosely used), Catholic, Protestant, etc.

These types of war will continue as they have for millennial now. The war that we are concerned about as saints in the kingdom of God is the war against the flesh and the loss of our soul.

*Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? James 4:1*

*Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 1 Peter 2:11*

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12*

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6*

Christians may have to deal with physical wars (Ecclesiastes 3:8) but the continuous war we fight on a daily basis is very real and must be won or we suffer an eternal defeat. The devil is always walking “about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour”. (1 Peter 5:8) His weapons are lies, deceit, craftiness, works of darkness, but our weapons of warfare... “are mighty in God pulling down strongholds” 2 Corinthians 10:4

The Battle is the Lord’s (1 Samuel 17:47) so put on the armor of God and fight (Ephesians 6:10-18). The devil will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:10) Do not join the devil in hell, fight the good fight of faith and receive the salvation of your soul.



## What Will I Leave Behind?

- by Frank Himmel

Acts chapter 9 tells about a Christian named Dorcas who lived in Joppa. “This woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did” (v. 36). Dorcas fell sick and died. The disciples washed her body and laid it in an upper room. They then sent for Peter, who was at nearby Lydda. “So

Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them” (v. 39). Peter had plenty of material to preach an impressive funeral sermon, but he did something even greater: he raised her from the dead!

The Bible doesn’t reveal any other information about Dorcas. How old was she? What did she look like? Was she married? Did she have children or grandchildren? Was she a woman of considerable means or did she have little? We could guess, but that’s all it would be — a guess.

What we do know about this woman is enough to raise a question worth considering. The Bible emphasizes the good she left behind. Now the question is: What will I leave behind?

I will leave behind whatever material thing I have. “For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either” (1 Timothy 6:7). What will those rummaging through my stuff find? Will they find any evidence of a God-centered life, or will everything point to a life focused on self?

What will I leave to others? Will there be anyone who can produce a gift I gave to them? Will anyone have a memory of how I provided for them in a time of need, the way Dorcas did for these widows?

What example will I leave? Will it be one of faithful service to God? Would it be the kind that might encourage a struggling Christian to remain faithful? Would it strengthen others to stand firm for truth?

What words of mine will people remember? Will it be words of encouragement or mostly complaining? Words of kindness or words of bitterness and anger? Will anyone remember me having taught them God’s word?

What difference will it make? Will my brethren even miss me? Will it leave any appreciable void in the local congregation?

What will I leave behind?



## Trends . . .

A new study found that, on average, moms and dads spend nearly five hours a day on electronic devices. Sadly, that’s more than the less than four hours they spend on meaningful activities with their kids. Most parents (80%) own three electronic devices or more, with the majority of their kids (81%) owning at least two electronic devices, highlighting the enormous presence of technology in households. - ***via StudyFinds.org, 9/14/23***

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