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Never Fight a Battle Where Nothing is Accomplished by Victory

This is a quote from General George Patton's *Lessons for Leaders*. It is very good advice. Most of the fusses and fights that people have in life are not worth having, because nothing is accomplished by the victory.

The husband and wife argue for an hour over who set the glass on the coffee table; and once the argument is settled, nothing is accomplished. As a matter of fact, usually something's lost. The one who wins the argument usually loses the fellowship of the other for several hours, if not for a day or two. Some things are not worth fighting for. We should not waste time or energy even discussing them.

I once said to a group of preachers, "There are

some things that I'd die for, other things that I'd fight for that I wouldn't die for, and still other things that I'd fuss about that I wouldn't fight over." It's wise to learn to put everything in one of these categories.

When the Apostle Paul was facing execution, he said in II Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight." He didn't mean that he fought well. That may have been the case, but it wasn't for Paul to say. That was for God to decide.

When he said, "I have fought a good fight," he was saying, "The cause for which I fought was a good one."

If you're going to fight, make sure, absolutely sure, that you're fighting for a good cause, or else it isn't a good fight. And never fight a battle where nothing is accomplished through the victory.