

# **LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES**

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## **Standing For The Right**

1Cor.16:13

A. These words from Paul have the imagery of battle in them; the suggestion of war and conflict vibrate in every word of this exhortation. It is an appeal to the Christian to come to the defense of the gospel, in just as stirring a manner as the call of a commander to his comrades in a critical time of battle.

1. Watch Ye: that is, watch for the enemy's approach. Watch for the tell-tale signs of the traitor, for the drifting characteristic of the unconcerned. Watch for the loose, vile habits of the wicked. For the irresponsible behavior of the wayward. Mt.26:41 "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak."

2. Stand Fast In The Faith: the Christian should be fixed in the faith of the gospel, and never desert or renounce it. Always defending the truth, and aggressively fighting the enemy. To stand is the opposite of wavering, drifting, tossing.

3. Quit Ye Like Men: show yourselves men in Christ by your steadfastness and firm stand in the gospel; perform like noble and worthy soldiers. Demonstrate your maturity, courage, and your dedication. Never succumb to childish behavior and actions of the immature.

4. Be Strong: Do not waver, but hold the line of defense. Don't give up or in or over.

### **B. Every Christian Is A Soldier.**

In the scriptures the Christian life is often compared to a warfare or struggle for victory. The N. T. is filled with fighting terms. 1Tim.1:18 "This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare." Tim.6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith..." 2Tim. 2:3 "endure hardness as a good soldier..."

### **C. Sometimes It Is Necessary To Stand Alone In Battle:**

Ex.23:2 "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice."

Sometimes people are afraid to express themselves on issues that threaten the peace of the church, for fear of being rejected or offending someone. I'd rather be right than be liked. I'd rather be right than be popular. There is no place in the kingdom for a coward, a weakling, an apologist, or a compromiser.

## I. Some Things For Which A Christian Must Stand.

### A. The Right Life--Purity of Life.

Mt.5:8 "blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

1Tim.5:22 "...keep yourself pure."

We are to be pure:

In thought--pure thinking is essential to pure living. Prov.23:7 "as a man thinketh in..."

Prov.4:24 "Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life"

Mt. 12:35 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

In speech--Eph. 4:29 "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." Col. 3:8 "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth."

In deed--Phil. 1:27 "Only let your conduct be worthy (a manner of life in accordance with what the gospel declares) of the gospel of Christ..." Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation has appeared to all men teaching us that denying worldly lust we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." Impurity of life is to be shunned by the child of God. Rom.12:2 "and be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed..." 1Cor. 6:17 "Therefore come out from among them and be separate says the Lord. Do not touch the unclean thing, and I will receive you." Though we are in the world, we cannot love the world to the extent of fashioning ourselves according to its standards and manner of living.

### B. The Right Doctrine.

1Tim.4:6 "If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. The pioneers of the Restoration Movement in standing for doctrinal purity did not minimize the standard of moral purity, because there was no laxity in morals then, such as we now have in our time. They succeeded the Puritan Age and lived under the moral influence of that period. They waged their battle in the field of doctrinal purity, because the religious world had apostatized so far from the apostolic doctrine. Our job today is to wage relentlessly the battle for both moral and doctrinal purity. Rom.16:17 "Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine..."

2Tim.4:2-4 "Preach the word be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, and exhort..."

### The Right Doctrine involves:

a. The Right Gospel--Gal.1:6-9 "I marvel that you are so soon removed from him who called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another..." A

perverted gospel is an adulterated gospel. Even though the gospel is the "power of God unto salvation" it can be perverted. Bread is God's power to satisfy hunger, but when bread is mixed with poison, that power will be destroyed.

Catholicism with all its traditionalism, idolatry and priestcraft is a perverted system. Protestantism with all of its human dogma and machinery is but a corruption of New Testament undenominational Christianity. Mormonism with all its so-called modern revelations of Joseph Smith is a perverted teaching. Christian Science with its false prophetess is a perverted religion. Modernism with its social gospel is a cunning device of Satan. A politically correct gospel (one that condemns nothing for fear of offending someone) is a perverted gospel.

b. The Right Doctrine Involves The Right Church.

Mt.16:18 "...I will build my church..."

Col.1:18 "...He is the head of the church which is his body..."

Eph. 1:22 "...He is the head of the body which is the church."

Eph. 4:4 "there is one body."

The church is the one spiritual body over which Christ rules as the supreme head and in which His Spirit dwells. Present-day denominationalism rejects this truth, for in America we have more than 300 major religious bodies, all teaching a different way to be saved, wearing different names and engaging in different practices.

c. The Right Doctrine Involves the Right Church Organization.

In the apostolic church there were: Elders (presbyters, pastors, shepherds, bishops, overseers). These men guided and oversaw the flock--confronting and resisting the gainsayer and false teacher. Deacons were servants of the church. There was no dictator, no despot who held the church hostage to his whims. No majority rule that determined the spiritual direction of the kingdom. No rule by committee, or secret machine that ran the church. No ecclesiastical order with its human heads, cardinals, arch-bishops, synods and conferences. If there were no men qualified for the eldership, the church was guided by "faithful men" who were guided by the scriptures as they made decisions for the welfare of the kingdom.

d. The Right Doctrine Involves The Right Worship.

John 4:24 "God is a Spirit and they that worship Him..."

God---the right object of our worship

In spirit---the right attitude in worship

In truth---the right way in which to worship John 17:17 "sanctify them by thy truth, thy word is truth."

We can corrupt the worship by:

1. Attempting to worship when in the wrong spirit. A cavalier attitude--casual or arrogant--lack of seriousness or reverence. The "casual look" of today's society, often spills over in the way we worship. The actions and behavior of some, hinder others who attempt to worship in spirit. Such as children running out of services for the rest-room or around the auditorium.

People talking, or doing other things that distract not only themselves, but others.

2. Attempting to worship in the wrong way. This is done by bringing into the worship things that have no basis in scripture such as handclapping, singing while the communion is being served, women taking a leading role in leading the church, departures in the way we observe the Lord's supper, additions to the music of the church etc.

e. The Right Doctrine Involves The Right Hope.

Eph.4:4 "There is one body and one Spirit just as you are called in one hope of your calling." The one hope is the hope of eternal life. 1Peter 1:9 "receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls." 1John 2:25 "And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life." Our hope is not based in some false premillennial theory. Such offers a vain and empty hope. When Christ returns He will not establish an earthly kingdom; rather He will return the spiritual kingdom over which He has reigned since Pentecost, to the Father 1Cor.15:24-26.

The hope of a rapture such as that taught by dispensational premillennialism is a vain hope. Christ is not going to rapture the church away before a seven year tribulation period. The greatest need of the hour in the church of God is for every Christian to take his stand firmly for Christ. With God's help the army of Israel under Gideon was able to put to flight the Midianites, because "they stood every man in his own place round the camp." Judges 7:21. Let us take our place and stand for Christ in the face of opposition, ridicule, and even death.