

“Living Powerfully: STANDING FIRM”
August 11, 2013

Ephesians: a manual for transforming the world-

SIT- established in our relationship with Jesus (ch. 1-3)

NOTE: God works for those who wait for Him!

WALK- our relationships with others (ch. 4-5)

STAND- our posture toward the enemy (ch. 6)

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

PROP- Those firmly established (*SIT*) who live godly lives (*WALK*) will face conflicts with uncompromising boldness (*STAND*).

1. WE ARE IN A WAR (v. 12)

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

- **“Trouble”- *opposition; pressure—with the goal of crowding us out***
- **“Take heart”- *be of great courage; undaunted***
- **“I have overcome”- *I have the undisputed victory; finality; telios!!***

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-14

- **The devil is enraged; lost what he stole from the first Adam—was taken back by the Last Adam—Jesus!**
- **He is equally enraged at Jesus’ followers who take away his “opportunities” (*i.e., kairos*) by making the “most of opportunities”!**

2. WE HAVE ONE POSTURE: STAND!!! (v. 11)

- **Lit.- “Stand your ground!!!”**
 - **Soldiers “March!” when trying to take ground**
 - **They “Stand!” when they have it!**
 - **Refuse to move from the ground Jesus won for us!!!**
 - ***i.e., Roman spiked sandals***
- **Jesus moved on the OFFENSE on our behalf!**
 - **Ephesians 4:8- “He ascended (*to take the rightful throne of authority*) on high, He led captives in his train and gave (*restored*) gifts to men.”**
 - **Colossians 2:15- He “disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the Cross.”**
- **Our role is to STAND and ENFORCE what Jesus has won!**
- **Only those who SIT can STAND!**
 - **“Overcomers” fight FROM victory (not FOR it!)**

- When we “STAND”—we posture ourselves for victory.
- The enemy’s only tactic is to blind us to His triumph—so we posture ourselves for defeat
- “Thy Kingdom come!” is the declaration of Jesus’ victorious right to the planet. We are called to displace the enemy through our righteous stand!

3. WE ARE FULLY PROTECTED (v. 13-14)

- For every place of vulnerability—“FULL ARMOR” is provided!
 - MIND- from “vain imaginations and lofty things” (*thinking fearfully and independently of God*)→ “SET on things above”
 - HEART- from being “broken” or “hardened”→ tender heart; compassionate; writes His Word on it; forgive others from the heart; diligently guard it
 - LOINS- place of deepest devotion & intimacy; covenant making/keeping→ TRUTH—pure; made clean by His word washing us; girded with devotion & integrity
 - FEET- walk on straight paths; stand our ground; no “lifting up the heel” (false allegiance)→ prepared to declare “good news”; “beautiful”—*right place, right time; all we need*
- From this secure place of surrounded protection, we...
 - BOLDLY BELIEVE (The SHIELD)
 - SEE Hebrews 13:5
 - “Content”- *to be strong—filled with unfailing strength*
 - Only those who *SIT* can *STAND!!*
 - 1st “submit to God”; *then* “resist the devil” (James 4:7)
 - BOLDLY DECLARE (The SWORD)
 - SEE Hebrews 13:6
 - His word to us is BOTH timeless and timely (i.e., what He *said* and what He’s *saying*)
 - More than wise sayings and good advice, His word to us is “watched over” until “He fulfills it!!”
 - One of the most powerful weapons: BEING THANKFUL “always for all things” (Ephesians 5:20)

CONCLUSION

Hebrews 2:8-9- We don’t see His victory fully manifest yet.

BUT we see Jesus “NOW crowned” the undisputed King of all!!!

STAND on the ground Jesus won for us—refusing to be moved from it!!