

Message
of
Jesus Christ

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Know Your Enemies; Stand Strong!¹

Amy heart rejoices when I read of those great saints who have gone before us, that great cloud of witnesses (Heb 12.1). I want to be able to stand with men and women that are of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the living God; however, it says in Acts 5.41 that the apostles “[rejoiced] that they were counted worthy to suffer **shame** for [His] name.”

When the Lord calls those who are committed to serving Him, Satan’s great object in the world is to steal, kill, and destroy. This is the object of your enemies. Those hiding behind a pulpit while standing on a pulpitum (stage), in like manner, come to rob you of your soul, peace, joy, and holiness.

Nehemiah recognized his enemies and gave no heed to those who tried to stop the work to which he was called (Neh 4.2-3). He did not give time to those who wanted to talk, to take his time from the work to which he was called by the Lord God Almighty. He cared not for their slanderous words, their ridicule, their gossip, their lies, their attempt to discourage him from the work of the Lord Jesus, their contempt, their jealousy, their conspiracy—nor did he care through whom it came as it all comes from Satan.

Nehemiah knew his enemies. He knew the voice of the Lord God in Christ Jesus; when you know the voice of Jesus Christ, you recognize voices that are not his though some may endeavor to sound like Jesus. Nehemiah 6.10 is an excellent example of one who was considered a prophet but was not of the Lord God. Jeremiah also recognized the voice that was not from the Lord God in Hananiah who also was a false prophet (Jer 28.12).

Nehemiah knew his enemies, and he **stood strong**. Nehemiah says, “... I **perceived** that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him” (Neh 6.12). He speaks against his enemies with strength in verse 14: “My God, think thou upon

Jesus asked Peter “could you not watch and pray for one hour?”
And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter,
What, could ye not watch with me one hour?
Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *[is]* willing,
but the flesh *[is]* weak. (Mt 26.40, 41)

We must be focused upon Jesus, having our eyes upon Him. **We must trust in the Lord and lean not unto our understanding** (Pro 3.5).

It is then the work of the Lord will be accomplished and the enemies confounded as we continue walking in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. Read Nehemiah six – and be blessed as you **walk on with the Lord Jesus Christ!**

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31)

¹ Thank you, JWP.

Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear."

Nehemiah perceived that the prophets were false, that they were not of the Lord God of Israel. He knew that the fear they desired to instill in him was not from the living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Hear what the Lord God says to the false shepherds, the false prophets, the false church-goer.

Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: *[but]* ye feed not the flock.

The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up *[that which was]* broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. (Eze 34.3-4)

You say, oh that is only to the false shepherd. What is good for the false shepherd is good for all who say they are committed to living for Jesus Christ. We are each one accountable to the Lord God to edify the body of Christ – as His Word teaches. Remember, the great object of the enemy is to steal, kill, and destroy, to rob you of your soul, peace, joy, and holiness. This is the object of the enemies of the Lord Jesus.

Paul recognized the enemies of the Lord Jesus who came against him. He recognized Satan in I Timothy 1.20 and II Timothy 4.14. Paul **stood strong**: he did not hesitate to speak forth the truth concerning the lives of those who did not live according to the Word of God. He wrote this that we might understand Romans 16.17, 18.

Now I beseech you, brethren, **mark them** which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and **avoid them**.

For they that are such **serve not our Lord Jesus Christ** . . .

Paul wrote "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works" (II Tim 4.14). If you think that is harsh, read I Timothy 1.20: "Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme." John Gill's *Exposition on the Entire Bible* writes of blasphemy: "... by their unbecoming lives and conversations, giving themselves great liberty in sinning..."

Many times there is much jealousy toward those who, like Paul and Stephen, have given their lives completely to Jesus. Jealousy can bring about hatred, rage, covetousness toward those followers of Jesus Christ who are totally committed to Him. Remember Stephen in Acts 7.54-60.

Once you recognize the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are called to **stand strong** in the Lord.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and **in the power of his might**. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil. (Eph 6.10-11)

How does one who is committed to Jesus Christ **Stand Strong** in the midst of the enemy who gains a following that joins forces with him to come against you?

You **walk on** with Jesus Christ come what may (Isa 30.21). Jesus said in Luke 9.23, "... If any *[man]* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." You **walk in the power of His might**. You come to realize that there is "Power in the Blood ... of the Lamb," Jesus Christ.

Every true believer in Jesus Christ has experienced the power of sin in the enemy that has come against them but knows that the power of God in Christ Jesus is greater. The Word of the Lord says in I John 4.4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU, THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD."

How does one **stand strong** and overcome hindrances to the call of God upon one's life? What are the hindrances? There can be many hindrances, but some might be ridicule, contempt, conspiracy, discouragement by friends, family, as well as foe . . . How do we stand strong against these hindrances, against the enemy?

We must "**Go Forth in Great Confidence**" in the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting Him with our lives. We must **watch and pray** as did Nehemiah (4.7-9).

But it came to pass, *[that]* when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, *[and]* that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, And conspired all of them together to come *[and]* to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

Nevertheless **we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them**.

This means stopping right where you are and seeking the face of the Lord with ears to hear the Lord and a heart to obey Him. Nehemiah **STOOD STRONG** and said to them, **WHY SHOULD I TAKE TIME FROM DOING GOD'S WORK TO LISTEN TO YOU?** Nehemiah **REFUSED** to even LISTEN TO THE ENEMY (Neh 6.2-7) – **and so should we!!**

We must **fear not**; we must **be of a good courage**. "...the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and *[so]* builded...." (Neh 4.18). We also must be watchful as we continue our work with our swords by our side ready with the Word of God to be used against the enemy should he come against us: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**" (Eph 6.17).