

# 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*)

September, 2012

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. IV.09

Message  
of  
Jesus Christ

## Stand Steadfast!

Jesus quoted the Scripture in time of challenges and temptations. If He, being the Living Word, quoted Scripture, how much more we need to know the Written Word and Him, the Living Word, to have the mind of Christ in our lives – in how we respond to the enemy – regardless through whom the enemy may work. We need the Word of the Lord in us, flowing in us and through us, that we might **stand steadfast** in life daily as opportunities come our way to serve the Lord Jesus on *The Way*, as challenges come our way to distract us on *The Way* to serve the Lord Jesus, as responsibilities come our way to discourage us on *The Way* to serve the Lord Jesus.

The Psalmist wrote, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Ps 119.11). Standing steadfast is standing with the Word of the Lord in your heart, in your life; it is the way you live and think. It is who you are in Christ Jesus – a way of life.

The Psalmist also wrote, “Thy word *[is]* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Ps 119.105). He understood that he needed The Word to guide him in his daily life lest his foot should go astray . . . .

The writer of The Book of Hebrews writes about an Anchor of the Soul that we have that is “both sure and steadfast” (Heb 6.19). This Anchor that is “both sure and steadfast” is Jesus Christ. All too often, we expect someone to be sure and steadfast in their love for us; but we do not understand that love, “The Love of God,” which **calls us** to be sure and steadfast unto the One Who gave His life for us that we might live with Him now and forevermore.

Timothy was called to be steadfast. Paul wrote to young Timothy, “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” (II Tim 1.13). Paul was not telling young Timothy to hold onto the words by holding the Word of God in his hand, but to hold fast the form of sound words in His life, to live for Jesus Christ – come what may. These are hard days now and will be even to a greater measure in the soon coming months that lie before us, and we are called to “Hold fast the form of sound words . . . in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

When I hear those who say they are leaders in the church and their language skills are reduced to profanity with the saying, “Pardon my French,”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *[are]* not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be *[so]*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *[us]* out of thine hand, O king.  
**But if not**, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will not** serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. (Dan 3.16-18)

Will you and I remain steadfast as did these three young men? Oh, Jesus, strengthen us by Your Word. By the Word of the Lord, we are able to stand, to stand steadfast in You, Jesus!

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess, The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.  
**Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ**

Come apart and rest (*Mark 6.31*).

they are not holding fast to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. When one says he knows Jesus but sounds, looks, and acts like the world over which Satan has control, he is not one who is holding fast the form of sound words of Jesus Christ. Let us repent and lay our lives before Jesus Christ that we can go on with the Lord, being steadfast and immovable in Jesus Christ.

We need to be steadfast in the Word of the Lord and “in the breaking of bread and in prayers” (Acts 2.42). If we are not steadfastly standing with the Lord in His Word, “in the breaking of bread and in prayers,” we will falter. Many tell us they do not read the Word of the Lord consistently, but that they are living for Jesus. This is not true as you cannot know the will of the Lord outside of the Word of the Lord. You may be living a goodly life, but a godly life comes from the Word of the Lord. If you do not know what the Word of the Lord says, you cannot follow *The Way* of the Lord. You cannot stand steadfast and immovable if you are not reading the Word of the Lord.

There is a chorus that says, “By the Word of the Lord we are made overcomers . . .” It is the Word of the Lord that gives to us strength, life, holy boldness . . . It is by the Word of the Lord that we are able to stand – stand steadfast in Jesus Christ and go through that which is upon us. These days that lie before us will bring to remembrance the “great cloud of witnesses” who walked through the fire. Again, it is by the Word of the Lord that we are able to stand, the written Word of the Lord and the living Word – the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you are not steadfast in the Word of the Lord, you will listen to the world, to Satan, and walk that way; **and** you will believe that what you hear from the world sounds nice, goodly, kindly – **and** you will follow. The Lord God of Israel is not about nicety, goodliness . . . He is about holiness, and righteousness . . . Our lives are to be steadfast in Him, in His ways, in His commands, in HIM.

The Psalmist spoke of “a generation [*that*] set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God” (Ps 78.8). This is where we are today; this nation is not standing steadfast with the God of Israel, the living God. This nation has, like the children of Israel, said to those whose gods are of this world, come on over and bring your gods with you that we too may serve them. The “church-goers” and those hiding behind a pulpit while standing on a pulpitum (stage) are heard to say, “Abraham is the father of all of us; we are one.” I say to you that these are not the people of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the living God. The lineage is through Isaac – not another. If you are not in the Word of the Lord Jesus, you cannot understand what He has spoken.

This nation has said to the peoples of the world, “Come, set your threshold by the thresholds of our God – uh, our god.” Hear what the Lord God said in Ezekiel.

In their setting of their threshold by my thresholds, and their post by my posts, and the wall between me and them, they have even defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed: wherefore I have consumed them in mine anger (Eze 43.8).

There is a cost to being steadfast in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord commands us to be steadfast; however, hear what Paul says, “And our hope of you [*is*] steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so [*shall ye be*] also of the consolation” (II Cor 1.7). It is not an easy life to be steadfast in the Lord, in the Word of the Lord. The Calvary Road is a hard road, a road over which we will find many bruises and cuts and hurts when walking with the Master. But, oh, the Balm of Gilead that soothes the soul, that heals the soul, that strengthens the heart of those walking with the Master on this Calvary Road that He walked before us – alone – is joy and peace.

His love for us is sure and immovable. If we could grasp what He did for us on Calvary, if we could grasp the glory of the Lord and experience His glory, if we could just reach out and touch the hem of His garment, oh!, if we could just **know HIM**, “and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings...” (Phil 3.10)! To know the fellowship of His sufferings is to bring us to experience His love for us as He died on the Cross of Calvary. It is to stand steadfast with Him Who died for us – all because He first loved us.”

We need to be in the Word of the Lord God, the Holy Bible (and not the modern translations in which many have reduced the Word to the world’s understanding of what Satan wants understood). We need to be in the Word of the Lord God, the Holy Bible that we might come to experience the passion of the Lord, His love for us: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15.13).

The Lord is faithful; He is steadfast forever the Bible tells us. The kingdoms of this world will fail – and, I believe we are getting a taste of that right now. Our hope, our trust, must be in the God Who owns the cattle on a thousand hills – not in the kingdoms of this world. Our hope, our trust must be in the God, the living God Who is creator, redeemer, healer, provider, sustainer, and lover of our souls. When this world passes away – and it shall – all that we will have is Jesus Christ the only Begotten Son of God. When this happens – and it surely is coming soon – His glory will be resting upon those whom He has called, whom He has chosen to walk with Him all the way.

The great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us in the Primitive Church, the Early Church, and all through history to include Christ’s Holy Church today, have shown us *The Way* by the Word of the Lord. Remember the three young men in Daniel whom King Nebuchadnezzar threatened? Remember their response?