

Stand Strong

Week 10 - The Covenant, The King, and The Kingdom (7-7-21)

I. Why?

- A. Why should we continue to stand against evil if we already know that it's just going to continue to get worse?
 - 1. It SHOULD be the church's nature to want to hold back the darkness. (Matt. 5:14-16)
 - a) Light, by its own nature, expels the darkness. Even if it's going to continue to get darker. - Just keep being light!
 - b) We are still here for a reason - shine the light for as long as we possibly can.
 - c) 2 Peter 3:9 - God has not neglected His promise to return but is long-suffering that all should come to repentance.
 - (1) vs. 14 - "Wherefore...be diligent..."
 - (2) vs. 17 - "Therefore...beware let ye also...fall from your own steadfastness."
- B. The new testament epistles were written with Christ's return in mind.
 - 1. Early church believers were being taught how to live out their christian faith with the mindset that Christ could return at any moment so the things they were being encouraged to do can be directly applied to our lives today as we continue to anticipate Christ's return.
- C. The only two options are to actively be a light that is naturally aggressive toward darkness, or to fall into the shadows and be overcome by the darkness.
 - 1. you can either hold back on God, or you can hold back hell.
- D. We have been called to stand against evil
 - 1. Matt. 16:18 - "prevail" = have strength against.
 - a) The church that Jesus is talking about here is to be offensively attacking the gates of hell, and hell is on the defense. We are to be offensively attacking the gates of hell, snatching out victims of darkness into God's glorious kingdom of light.
 - 2. 2 Thess. 2:14-17 "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions..."
 - 3. 2 Tim. 3:13-14 - Things will continue to get worse but we need to continue in the things that we have learned.
 - 4. 2 Tim. 4:1-8 - "...make full proof of thy ministry." "...there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness..."

II. How?

- A. Ephesians 6:10-18
 - 1. vs. 10 - "...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of **His** might."
 - a) Our strength does not come from ourselves but from God. So charge yourselves up and get ready for battle.
 - b) If we are not taking time to let God change our nature then we will not shine as bright as we should.
 - 2. Know who you are in Christ, and what authority you have been given!
 - a) 1 John 4:4, John 15:15, 1 Peter 2:9, Eph. 2:10, Phil. 3:20, Romans 8:37, 2 Cor. 5:17, Matt. 28:18-19, Mark 16:17

- b) Don't get entangled with the things of this world - 2 Tim. 2:3-4
- 3. vs. 11 - "Put on the whole armor..."
 - a) We have to put on the armor. It does us no good if we leave it in the closet.
 - b) Be intentional about going out to do battle. "Stand therefore..."
- 4. Spiritual Armor
 - a) Belt of Truth
 - (1) Everything is tied together and held up by truth
 - (2) Don't be ignorant of satan's devices - 2 Corin. 2:11
 - b) Breast Plate of Righteousness
 - (1) The fancy looking part of Roman armor - Godly conduct/obedience to the truth/the glory of God coming out of our lives.
 - (2) protects the mid-section, the vitals. The core of who I am is who God has made me to be... The Righteousness of God!
 - c) Feet shod with the Gospel of Peace
 - (1) Remember to share the truth in love. - Eph. 4:14-15
 - (2) Be ready in and out of season to share the gospel
 - d) Shield of Faith
 - (1) We live by faith! - Romans 1:17 & Hebrews 10:38
 - (2) We walk by faith! - 2 Corin. 5:7
 - e) Helmet of Salvation
 - (1) Protect your renewed mind
 - (a) know who you are in christ, and what authority you have
 - f) The Sword of the Spirit, The Word of God
 - (1) Sharper than any two-edged sword - Hebrews 4:12
 - (2) Resist satan with the word of God like Jesus did when He was tempted
 - (a) James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:8-9