

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Anna Surface 2010

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

July
21
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“THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT”

by Jim Stauffer

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” (Ephesians 6:10)

We are told by the apostle in this text the reason we need to be strong in the Lord and that being strong in the Lord is depending upon His strength and power. We are to be strong in the Lord to *stand firm against the schemes of the devil (vs. 11)*. Far too many people and even brethren think of the devil, Satan, as really just an image of all the things that are wrong. He is not just an image, he is an active force whose sole goal is to derail us from following the Lord. He is a prowling lion looking for his prey according to **1 Pet. 5:8**. This is why we are warned to flee from him and deny him any opportunity to pull us away from God (**Jas. 4:7; Eph. 4:27**).

You see it is the *spiritual forces of wickedness (vs. 12)* that he has under his control to use against the followers of God. Satan realizes he must gain control over our spirit to have the power to lead us. When Paul teaches us to *walk by the Spirit* in **Gal. 5:16** he is telling us for our spirit to be guided by the Spirit of God (**Rom. 8:5, 9-11**). When we cede control of our lives to the Spirit of God, we have refused to allow Satan control.

Paul then describes those things that the Spirit of God has provided for man. First he tells us to gird our loins with the truth. Girding the loins was a step in preparation for the activity of battle. If we embrace the truth of God’s message it has the ability to defend us against Satan’s spiritual forces (**John 8:32; 17:17**). Embracing the truth demands one oppose error. We cannot due to earthly relationships such as family or friends abide error and bid Godspeed to those who believe and teach it (**2 John 9-11**).

As he continues to describe military armor he tells us to put on the breastplate of righteousness (**vs. 14**). How often do we realize that Jesus’ role as the propitiation for our sins was the one thing that had the power to restore us to a just or righteous condition? Do we realize the gospel reveals righteousness through faith and that Christ will judge us in righteousness in the

day of judgment? David said the righteous man is the one who can abide in the Lord’s tent (**Psa. 15:2**).

Now we are told to have our feet shod with *the preparation of the gospel of peace (vs. 15)*. It behooves us then, to live our lives as those guided by the principles of the gospel and with that life to communicate to others its message of truth and righteousness. A very strong principle taught by the Lord is that being actively involved in righteous living eliminates much of the opportunity, thus temptation to follow after such things as Satan uses for his schemes.

Since Satan is always on the attack, Paul says we need a shield to ward off his *flaming arrows (vs. 16)*. Paul states in his defense before King Agrippa that faith in Christ sanctifies one, provides forgiveness of sins as it turns one from *darkness to light, and from the dominion of Satan to God (Acts 26:18)*. Faith in God and His promises is what sustains us through the trials of life on earth (**Rev. 2:10**).

Finally he tells us to put on the *helmet of salvation* and take up *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Vs. 17)*. There is no greater comfort than the promise of salvation which comes to us through Jesus Christ (**Titus 2:11**). And there is no greater comfort than to be compared to our Lord who has done this in His mission to save mankind through sanctification and to punish those who succumb to the devil’s schemes. *“He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.” (Isaiah 59:17)*

We, as disciples of Christ have in our possession the greatest weapon possible in our battle with Satan and his spiritual forces of evil. It is the only offensive weapon in this coat of armor presented. It is the very weapon Jesus used when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness when He repeatedly answered him with the phrase, *It is written (Mat. 4:1-11)*.

Let us use *the strength of His might*.

The Fight For Truth

Robert F. Turner

When two brothers, presumed to be saints, have differences in understanding concerning some scriptural matter, their sainthood prescribes their conduct. They love each other, have nothing but good will toward one another — which means each wishes the other to have truth and profit by it. "Self" has been pushed into the background, if not eliminated (**Phil. 1:27--2:4**). They stand fast in one (or, the same) spirit (attitude), with one (the same) mind (desire) as they strive together (mutually helpful) for the faith of the gospel.

Honest now — is that the impression you get when two brethren meet on platform or printed page to discuss religious differences? How come a large percentage of readers or hearers get the impression each is out to **smear** the other, tack on an uncomplimentary "label," and "finish" him? We frequently hear some paper is just promoting self with such "issues."

We know that such charges can be more of the very tactics they criticize; can be efforts to stop any exposure of error; and we do not suggest that brethren should allow **false** charges to stop legitimate discussion. On the other hand, the presentation of gospel truth does not justify unethical and ungodly treatment of our opponents. When great segments of our audience — folk who agree with our conclusions — turn away in disgust from our tactics, we should at least realize we are not "coming across" as saints, primarily interested in truth.

Aye, here is the true test! Are we **teaching** truth, or are we using carnal pressures to build up a "party," and keep the members in line? Do our pupils know which flag to follow, but do not know WHY? Do our tactics promote a fanaticism that cries "Communist," "Calvinist," or "Liberal" at everyone who differs with us; or are we really interested in facts, and in constructive presentation of truth in love that **"suffereth long and is kind"** (**1 Cor. 13:4-f**). The "party and prejudice" route is the easy one — if you want that kind of members; but truth properly taught will free the recipient from sin, and make true brothers. WE MUST LEARN TO STAND UP FOR TRUTH WITHOUT KNEELING TO THE DEVIL!!

"Walk Like a Man!"

For my birthday five years ago my mother-in-law, Barb Sutton, gave me a coffee mug which says on its side, "If things get better with age, then I'm approaching Magnificent!" If you knew Mom you'd recognize the double message intended. One of the benefits of being a bit older is that I can remember things that seem like ancient history to others, like the song by "The Four Seasons" entitled "Walk Like a Man!" It's about a young man betrayed and slandered by an ex-girlfriend and his

father counsels him that the world is not coming to an end and that he is to "walk like a man". (With Dignity, Integrity and Strength of Character befitting **1 Kings 2:2**.) I heard the song recently and I wondered "Do kids today even know what it means to "Walk like a Man"? Or to "Act like a Lady"? (With Grace and Poise befitting Mary, the Mother of Jesus, whom I can't picture intimidated by anyone!) In today's society how would they ever learn? We've got parents talking about their six-months old and saying, "They're showing signs of being 'trans'." Really? "Trans" what, exactly, "Transmission"? And what, in the name of all that is decent and good, ever motivated you to interpret the behaviors of your six-months old to come to such a conclusion? It's an absurdity!

God knew what He was doing in the Garden of Eden in **Genesis 2:18-25** when he created Adam and Eve. In **1: 27** we are told He created them "male and female" and each in His image. From that point on He expected Adam to walk like a man and Eve to act like a lady and to teach their children to do likewise. It is still true today!

Cleveland Reddinger

The Justice Of God

Genesis 18:16-25; Romans 3:20-26

When we consider the concept of justice we are discussing the aspect of fairness, rightness, or the element of conformity to truth, fact, or adequate reason. One key element in having a scriptural understanding of God lies at the very heart of redemption from sin. Unless and until one understands what it really means to recognize the justice of God, it will be difficult to understand the aspect of Biblical redemption from sin, i.e., Salvation that is found in Christ.

In consideration of the justice of God, such is essentially connected to that of God's holiness. By the term holiness we refer to the fact that God is absolutely separate and exalted above all His creatures, and that He is equally separate from all moral evil and sin. In consideration of the holiness of God we shall see demonstrated from His word that He upholds His divine standard as well as judges individuals impartially in accordance to their response to it (**Romans 2:1-11**).

In noting the context of **Romans 2:11**, we discover that the Jew condemned the Gentile because of the sinfully reprobate life style in which they lived. Such judgment on the part of the Jew was correct. However, such was hypocritical in that they (the Jews) were guilty of practicing the same sinful lifestyles.

In noting further **Romans 2** we find that the Jew despised the riches of God's goodness as well as His forbearance and longsuffering; not realizing that God had been very patient and longsuffering with them. In reality while indeed God is a holy God hating the sins of

humanity, He is also long-suffering in His essence, having a strong desire to see sinners repent and return to Him; accepting the overtures of His mercy and obeying the conditions of forgiveness.

The reality of God's holiness rests upon His very essence or attributes. God is holy because it is His essence to be that way. It is impossible for God to act in an unholy way. If He so acted He would not be God. The totality of the Mosaic law was a divine revelation from God that demonstrates that because God in His nature could not sin, He would not and could not tolerate sin in any responsible being (**Romans 7:7-25**). Were God to compromise His attribute of holiness and tolerate sin in any way, He would not only destroy His own essence of Holiness, He would also be untrue to Himself and compromise the attribute of Justice in His own essence or nature. In other words, God would cease being just and would therefore cease to be God. However, it is impossible for God to cease to be God. Therefore it is impossible for God to cease being holy and impossible for God to cease being just. Such underscores the reality of the fact that God is unchangeable and never acts contrary or in contradiction to His own attributes.

The impartiality of God's divine justice. Whether in the relative or absolute context, the essence of God's justice is always the same. This means that He always applies the standard or covenant to which individuals are amenable impartially, in accord with their own righteousness or wickedness. In making this application He must act as Judge. He will judge in fairness, holiness and righteousness at the final Judgment (**Psalms 9:8; 96:13; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12**).

Because many individuals are not without impartiality they are not just or equitable in their actions or relationship with humanity. This is even the case with some within the Lord's church. The question has often been raised as to whether or not God will change His mind and make exceptions for certain individuals at the Judgment that did not make adequate preparation to be with Him in eternity. We must remember that we are not authorized to speak on God's behalf separate and apart from His divine revelation. As we give careful consideration to the word of God, He has already spoken regarding this specific subject matter (**Matthew 25:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2 Peter 2:20-22**). This issue does not deal with the concept exceptions. The concept deals with the exceptions that God has already clearly affirmed in His plenary and verbally inspired word. We do not have the right to deny Salvation to any that God has indicated that He will save in eternity and neither do we have the right to extend a false hope to those to whom God has promised eternal condemnation in Hell. Such justice belongs exclusively to God.

The scope of God's divine justice. All of us can be assured that God will act justly, fairly, and equitably in relationship to both Eternal Condemnation as well as

Eternal Salvation at the bar of divine Judgment for all of accountable humanity. We should never concern ourselves as to whether God through His Son will act correctly at the Judgment. Because of His holiness, righteousness, and justice, He cannot make a mistake, or draw a wrong conclusion regarding our eternal destiny. Consider these important facts:

*God leaves the ultimate choice as to whether one will be eternally lost or eternally saved to us: Such is our own personal choice (**Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 2:9; Revelation 22:17**).*

*It is our own personal responsibility to search for truth as well as to accept and obey God's divine truth during the time of our lives on earth (**Matthew 7:7; John 5:39; Hebrews 5:8-9**).*

Of all of the attributes of God His attribute of Divine Justice is most crucial. Because God is just He, in His mercy and grace has provided for us the scheme of Redemption that we, within this life, can as accountable individuals, be redeemed from our sins and by faithful living have Heaven as our eternal home.

Such is contingent upon the sacrifice of Christ (**1 Peter 1:18-23**).

By Kent Bailey

RIGHTEOUSNESS

In the Antarctic summer of 1908-9, Sir Ernest Shackleton and three companions attempted to travel to the South Pole from their winter quarters. They set off with four ponies to help carry the load. Weeks later, their ponies dead, rations all but exhausted, they turned back toward their base, their goal not accomplished.

Altogether, they trekked 127 days. On the return journey, as Shackleton records in The Heart of the Antarctic, the time was spent talking about food -- elaborate feasts, gourmet delights, sumptuous menus. As they staggered along, suffering from dysentery, not knowing whether they would survive, every waking hour was occupied with thoughts of eating. Jesus, who also knew the ravages of food deprivation, said, "**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for RIGHTEOUSNESS.**" We can understand Shackleton's obsession with food, which offers a glimpse of the passion Jesus intends for our quest for righteousness.

Source Unknown

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

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WEDNESDAY - 1&2 TIMOTHY
- JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY MORNING

**SERMON: THE INCREMENTAL
NATURE OF DECEIT**



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10