

G O D ' S M I S S I O N A R Y

STANDARD

PUT ON the WHOLE
ARMOR of GOD

that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

GOD'S MISSIONARY
STANDARD

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I have vivid memories as a kid going to the Post Office with my mom. We would often go to the little Post Office in Clinton Pennsylvania. I remember standing in line with my mother at the Post Office and I would always look at those bulletin boards and those wanted posters that were tacked on the bulletin boards. I would look at the mug shots of these criminals. I would read their rap sheets. Then I remember turning around in line, kind of looking to see if maybe someone in line matched the picture. I would go home and be all freaked out and scared, because I thought these criminals were chasing me. Spiritually speaking, if we would read satan's rap sheet, it would stagger us, perhaps to the point of being afraid to go on.



ROBERT BOOTH

But very important for us to understand is that satan is not all-powerful, God is! And God has given His followers equipment to put on in our battle against the enemy. This equipment is called the armor of God. This issue of the *Standard* focuses on these pieces of armor that are of vital necessity in our daily fight. It is our belief that a better understanding of the armor of God will help us live victoriously. 📌

EPHESIANS 6:10-17

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Belt of Truth

NATHAN WALTER

When I was a teenager in high school, it was considered important to wear a belt. It was part of avoiding a casual, sloppy appearance. But as the years have passed, the concern about such things has seemingly faded in our culture. People like to feel free to be individualistic and don't want to be forced into a mold. Now, that broader philosophy is pervading our culture as it relates to the belt of truth.

As Paul describes the Christian's armor, it is intriguing that he begins with this particular piece. At first glance, it may not seem as critical as the sword or shield. It is just a belt. Does that mean it is optional? Not at all! I contend that it is one of the most important elements of our warfare. In a sense, it girds us to fight the battle with unwavering purpose. Unless our cause is firmly rooted in truth, we are fighting in vain.

"What is truth?" Pilate's question in John 18:38 was asked of the very Man who embodied truth, and he did not recognize it. That question has now found its way into American culture. Modern thought proclaims that truth is relative, a personal thing that must never be forced on others. While that philosophy has begun to impact the church world, the only Source of truth is still the God of the Bible. Scripture must be our absolute guide. It becomes our belt of defense and our sword of conquest. Like John Wesley, we must become men and women of "one Book." Notice two specific applications of this.

1. Scriptural Truth must Determine what we Believe.

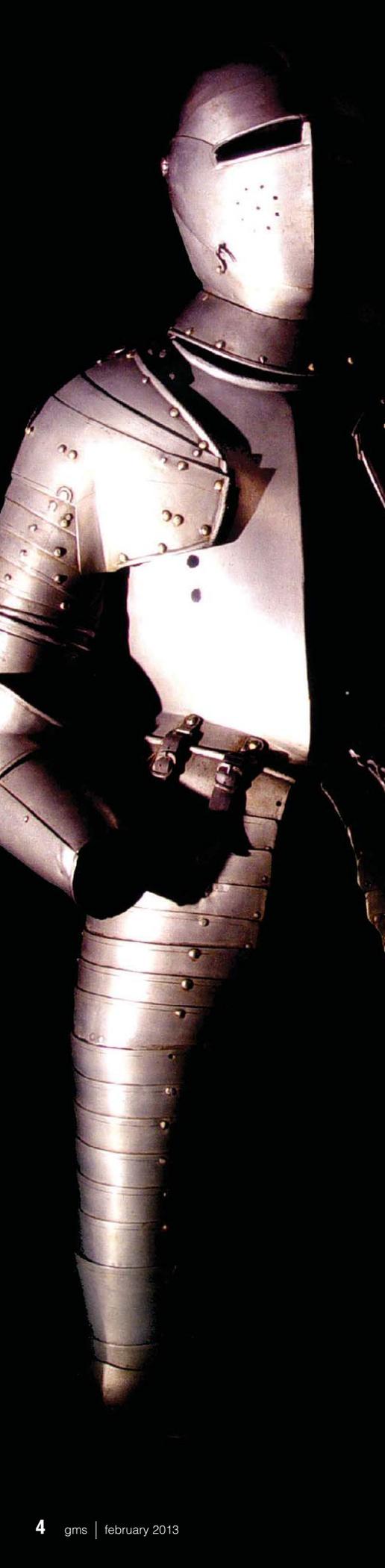
Remember that the Apostle Paul calls this a warfare in 2 Corinthians 10:4. We face frequent attacks against truth. Satan often comes as an angel of light, using faulty Christian songs, sermons, or other media to cloud our view of truth. How often do we analyze what we are feeding our minds for doctrinal integrity? Sadly, the struggle to explain what we believe and its basis in Scriptural truth is widespread. Instead of focusing on the absolute truth of Scripture, the modern Christian is living according to Judges 17:6, doing whatever is "right in his own eyes." That path will only lead to bondage, whereas "the truth shall make you free." Go ahead! Examine your beliefs. The truth will always withstand serious scrutiny.

2. Scriptural Truth must Determine what we Become.

According to the American Religious Identification Survey conducted in 2008, the percentage of self-proclaimed Christians stood at 76%. However, only about half of them even attended church regularly. Those numbers illustrate the pervading philosophy that our claim is what counts. We must beware of the danger of fitting in with the Christian community without a true change of heart and life. Too many of us have grown up learning the lifestyle and language without the transformation that must be the basis for our profession. Jesus talked about that problem in Matthew 7:21-23, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven." One of the foremost battles in our Christian life is to be genuine and true. The temptation is to focus on our profession more than our purity, but we must make the belt of truth a priority.

Deception is among the most frequent fiery darts of the wicked one, whether it is directed at our teaching or our testimony. Therefore, we must have a revival of the truth. This belt is not optional; neglecting it in this warfare could even be deadly. ■





Protecting the Vitals

"...having on the breastplate of righteousness..."

FREDERICK C. BENNETT

The warrior strikes a bold blow toward the vitals. A loud report echoes as blade meets armor. The blow is thwarted and the vitals are saved. In ancient warfare leather or heavy material was used to form chest protection. As metalworkers developed armor this piece became called the breastplate. Modern warfare uses the bullet proof vest to shield the chest and back. Neither the bullet proof vest or the breastplate are foolproof, but when coupled with additional armor and weaponry they provide adequate protection. The chest holds the vital organs and must be carefully protected in battle. A warrior in combat needed this piece of armor to protect during offensive movements. Therefore, the breastplate was strategically formed to protect vital organs from fatal injury.

There are two types of physical breastplates mentioned in the Bible. The first is found on the chest of the priest as he ministered before the Lord in the tabernacle of the wilderness. The second is displayed on the chest of the Israelite warrior in Old Testament warfare. The breastplate becomes a piece of spiritual armor in the prophecy of Isaiah as well as the letters of Paul to the early churches.

The priest in the wilderness tabernacle, wearing the breastplate of justice (Exodus 28:29-30), administered the righteous sacrifices that purchased peace between the offenders (Israel) and the offended (God). In the prophetic records of Isaiah, the Lord arms Himself with His own righteousness (Isaiah 59:17) as He comes to bring justice to the people of God. Ultimately, Jesus Christ the Righteous came to offer the final sacrifice that would secure justice for the people of God forever. Paul points to this righteousness as he calls the church to stand clothed in Christian armor and be protected from the accusations of the devil.

Christian armor is not for earthly warfare (Ephesians 6:12), but for spiritual battle. As Paul admonishes the church regarding their warfare against the devil (Ephesians 6:14, 1 Thessalonians 5:8), he indicates the vitals of the Christian warrior are protected with righteousness, faith and love. These form a spiritual defense against the enemy of the soul. The armor of God is not to protect against the schemes of men (Ephesians 6:11), but against those of the devil himself. Paul writes so that the church might be able to stand in their evil day (Ephesians 5:16). They were not standing against the Jews, Greeks, Romans or some other sect, but against spiritual wickedness. The apostle reminds them that God's righteousness provides protection for the vitals of the Christian warrior.

The children of Israel were justified by the righteousness of the priest. The first century church thwarted the accusations of the devil through faith in the sacrifice of the righteous Christ. Today's believer remains in need of protective righteousness. Redemption does result in active righteousness. Yet this righteousness is limited by personal understanding and interpretation of God's laws. The flesh limits understanding of the Holy

Spirit's direction and will at times lead to error. During these times of error the devil will attack. He will condemn. He will accuse. He will attempt to destroy faith in God's justice found in Christ's righteousness. Personal righteousness is a flimsy defense against the devil because it rests in frail human flesh. In order to stand in "the evil day," today's believer must be clothed in the protective righteousness of our perfect Eternal Redeemer. Earthly righteousness will not prevail in spiritual battle. However, God's righteousness worn as a breastplate will extinguish the accuser's darts. In this the believer stands! 🏰

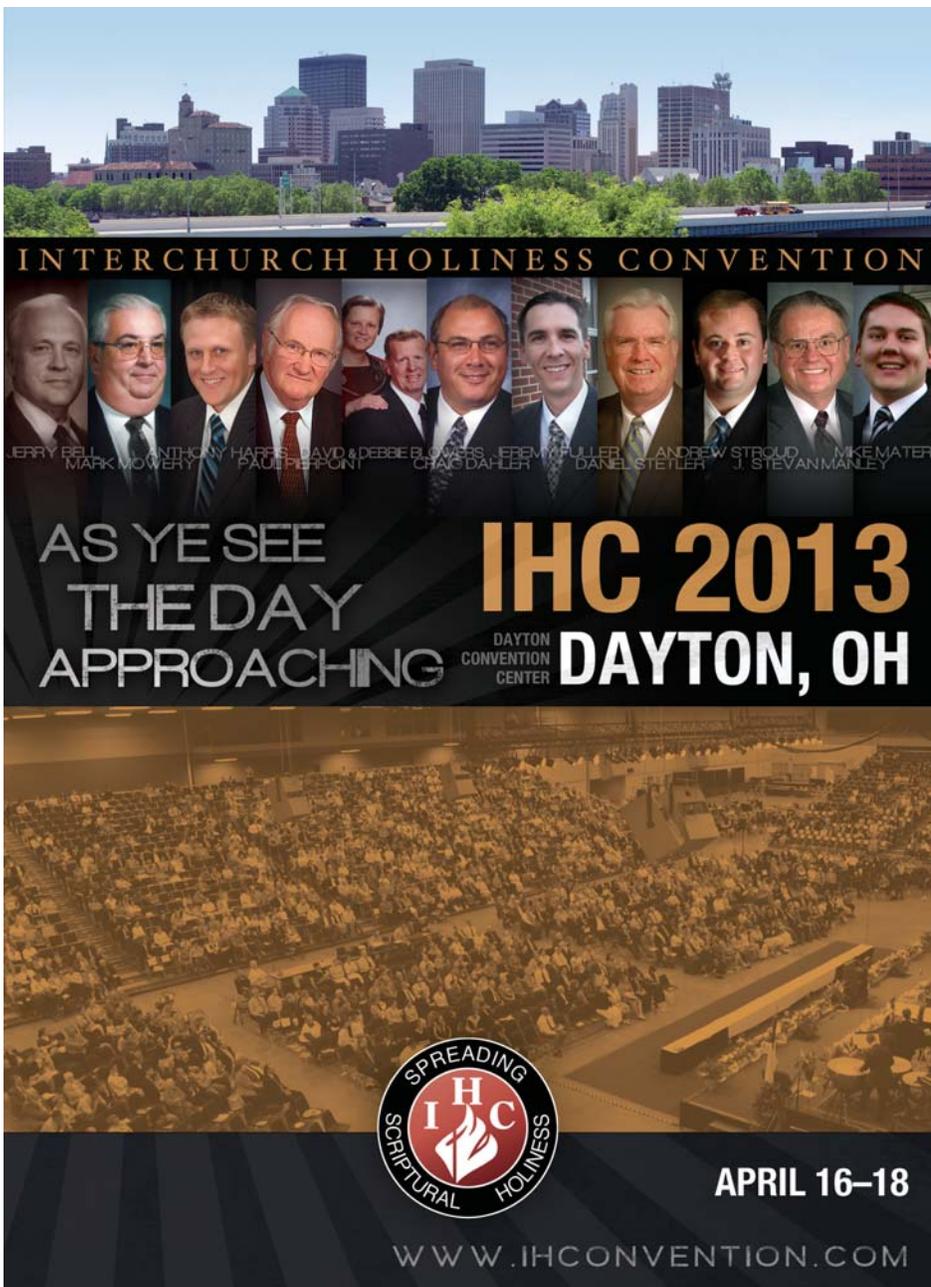
 conference news



Congratulations to Rev. Ryan & Mandy Martin on the birth of Shiloh Grace. Shiloh was born on October 25, 2012.



Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Marvin Mosley on the birth of Charisse Lorraine. Charisse was born on November 6, 2012.





Put On Your Shoes!

STEVE MILLER

Running shoes, walking shoes, work shoes, loafing shoes, dress shoes, casual shoes, leather shoes, rubber shoes, safety shoes, climbing shoes, many different colored shoes, slip-on shoes, lace-up shoes, flat shoes, and even platform shoes! No, this is not a paragraph from one of Dr. Suess's books. It is a short list of many different kinds of shoes that are available to meet the precise needs of our lives. No matter how many pairs of shoes you have, there is one primary purpose for each one and that is to protect your feet. For thousands of years, shoes have helped to keep the wearer's feet safe and prepared.

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:15 that in putting on the whole armor of God; keep, "your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;" The armor of the Roman soldier included protection for his feet. The shoes were made from layers of leather and metal and usually had spikes from one to three inches fastened to the bottom. Some of the soldiers were known to put spikes from the toes and heels of their shoes to add to their weapon arsenal. They also wore greaves on their legs that were made of brass or bronze and together with metal covers for the top of their feet they had an armored "boot" to protect them in battle. The Roman soldier had to be versatile and effective no matter the battle terrain. He would prepare himself for battle by having the most effective length of spikes he needed to wear into battle to keep his footing and hold his ground. He was a force to be reckoned with no matter the terrain.

Christians are to be prepared just as the Roman soldiers were ready for any enemy they faced. The Roman soldier knew that if his feet or legs were wounded his chance for survival was greatly diminished. That is why Paul admonished us to have our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel. If our feet slip or are knocked from under us, it can cause us great spiritual defeat. Paul uses the word that means to tightly strap to the foot, indicating that we should be at ready at all times to spread the Gospel. We should live in a state of preparedness looking for opportunities to share the Gospel. Paul also gives the indication that the Gospel, which is the Gospel of Peace, should be shared with love and compassion. Not in an argumentative spirit, but in a peaceful manner. Another aspect of preparation is that the Christian should be ready for battle whenever the enemy should strike. Have a ready stance, our footing secure, ready to take our stand against Satan's attacks.

An important element that we should obey is noted in verse 14. "Stand therefore..." means we are not trying to aggressively take ground, with our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel, but we are confidently keeping our footing and standing our ground. We have taken the time to truly prepare ourselves by putting on the whole armor of God and now we can stand, secure, confident, and bold in this present age.

When we have protected our feet, by putting on the Gospel of peace securely, we can be confident that God will do His part to help us in the battles that we face. Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Get your shoes on! 📌

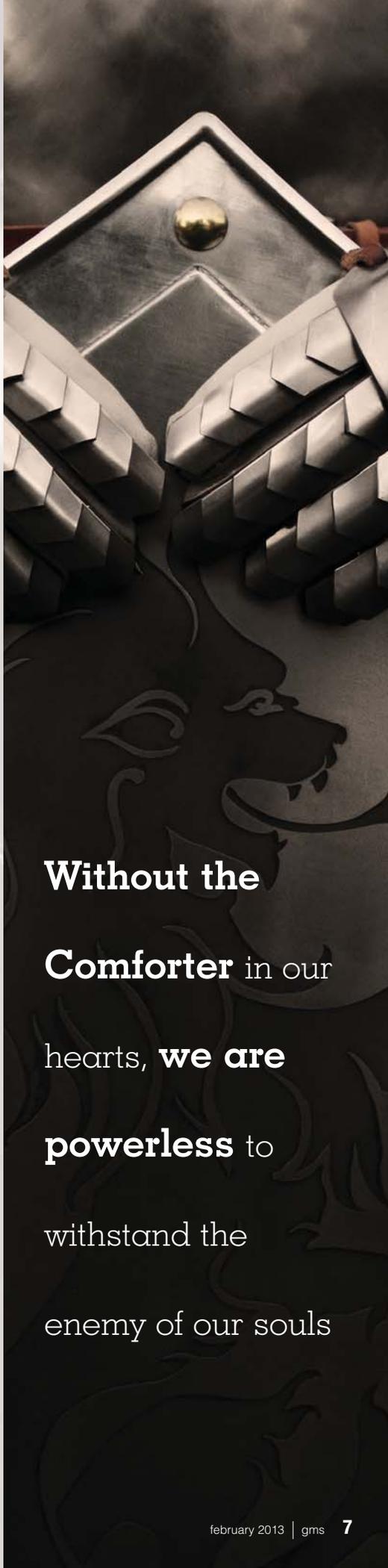
Shield of Faith

DAVID WISE

If the legends about the Apostle Paul are correct, he was a small man, with a very unimpressive physical appearance. His frail frame must have stood out in stark contrast to some of the burly fisherman that were his ministerial brethren. Though lacking in muscle, the Pharisee turned fisher of men, burned with a spiritual intensity that glowed in even the darkest of circumstances. Places like Roman dungeons became scenes of Gospel triumph as this lover of men's souls won even the most unlikely of folks to the cause of Christ. Not only rough jailers, but hardened Roman soldiers felt the impact of his fervent spirit. The goodness of God had brought him to repentance and Paul was confident that even the most vile and vicious of men could be redeemed through Calvary's love. The imposing Roman soldier that was literally chained to his side at times was viewed as a diamond in the rough that could do damage to Satan's territory, if truly brought into the kingdom of God. Few men outside of the military, could lay claim to knowing as much about the weaponry of Rome as Paul. The shields used by these men challenged the imagination of the apostle and the Spirit of God has recorded his thoughts for all generations.

The shield used by Rome's fighting men was no small thing. It was large enough to nearly cover the entire body of the soldier. Held in the one hand, it could be skillfully turned to protect the body from flaming arrows that sometimes were literally rained down from above. It would protect all the other parts of the armor if handled well. Albert Barnes tells us that the shield was made of light wood with a rim of brass around the outside. There were several folds of stout hide that served as a covering. This covering demanded frequent anointing of oil to create a polished, smooth surface that deflected arrows to the ground. This was incredibly important to the warrior because if the surface lost this finishing touch, the fiery missiles would lodge in the shield and force the defender to drop his primary source of defense from the enemy. A shield that was lacking in anointing oftentimes meant a soldier had zero chance of survival. He was a target marked for death.

Without the Comforter in our hearts, we are powerless to withstand the enemy of our souls. If our shield of faith has been abundantly coated with the oil of the Holy Spirit, we will resist the temptations of sin well. The fulness of the Holy Spirit is our best defense and our best aid in the area of faith. When the presence of Jesus is near, the pull of sin loses much of its power. Samuel Logan Brengle, in his classic book *Soul Winner's Secret*, speaks of the need of renewings of power. These deeper fillings of the Spirit are needed to keep the Christian tender in heart and strong in faith. As the Roman shield needed the frequent application of oil, so does the redeemed soul need fresh fire to be strong in the Lord. Christian friend, our only hope against the onslaughts of the enemy is to make sure our shield of faith is functioning as it should. As the old song says, may each soul be rekindled with fire from above. We are to stir up the gift that is in us. Our supply of oil is of utmost importance, for if we fail in this regard, we are nothing more than Christian soldiers marked for death by an adversary that seldom misses the target. 📌



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Sword of the Spirit

MATT ELLISON

The most treasured thing that we humans have is the Bible. In it we find words directly from God Himself. Of course, the words were written by human hands, but the inspiration was from God Himself (II Timothy 3:16). It is because of this fact that we should immerse ourselves in it. Reading it should be part of our daily routine. It should be read thoroughly, intensely and submissively.

Sadly, many do not see the Scriptures as such a precious thing. A lady was trying to impress her visiting minister about how devout she was by pointing out the large Bible on the bookshelf and talking in a very reverential way of it as "the Word of God". Her young son interrupted the conversation, "Well, if that's God's book, we better send it back to Him because we never read it!" I fear this has become the story of many individuals. This is a conclusion drawn from observing lives lacking power over sin, Godly discernment, wisdom, Christ-likeness, passion for service, and spiritual victory. These attributes will be evident in the lives of those who saturate their lives and minds with the Scriptures. Ephesians 6:17 tells that an important part of the armor of God is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

By saturating our lives with God's Word, we realize great benefits. First, we understand what truth is - God is truth. Therefore, what He speaks is truth. Reading His Word then will reveal truth to us. Secondly, filling our minds with His Word will help us resist and stand firm in the moments of temptation and confusion. If Eve would have simply stood on God's Word and said, "NO" instead of trying to reason with Satan, things would have been very different. Finally, by digging into God's Word, we will be convinced that there is nothing more important to teach a younger generation. There is no greater security for our children and new converts than God's Word. When God's Word directs their lives, they too will stand victorious in this evil and wicked world.

Please be aware that the devil will fight consistent Bible reading tooth and nail. Many have given up trying and the devil rejoices. Others expect the Word of God to hit them like a jolt of adrenaline each time they read or study it. Although the "jolt" may hit us periodically, the benefits of the Word of God act more like vitamins. People take vitamins regularly because of their long-term benefits, not because every time they swallow one of the pills, they feel new strength surging through their bodies. They have developed a habit of consistently taking vitamins because they believe that, in the long term, vitamin supplements are going to have a beneficial effect on their physical health, create resistance to disease, and provide general well-being. The same is true of reading the Bible. At times it will have a sudden and intense impact on us. However, the real value lies in the cumulative effects that long-term exposure to God's Word will bring to our lives. Purpose in your heart to make Bible reading an every day practice in your life. Without it, you do not have on the "whole armor" of God and you will fall. ❏

Helmet of Salvation

TIMOTHY COOLEY, SR.

O Christian, your head was given to you for more than a helmet rack! The helmet is to protect what is inside! THINK! Guard your thinking!

People have been Christians without a Bible. There have been Christians without a church building. Some even without the water of baptism or the bread and wine of Holy Communion! But you cannot be a Christian without thinking!

Faith is impossible without thinking and without doctrinal content. Hebrews 11:6 asserts, “He that cometh to God must believe that . . .” Romans 10:14 questions, “How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?” We are saved not by the phonics of His Name, but by trusting His divine/human character (Acts 16:31) and believing in His historical death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:12-19). Without that truth, we cannot be saved!

Jesus explained that we are polluted by the things we think (Mark 7:21-23). Paul taught that we are transformed “by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:2).

Hebrew writers spoke of thinking in one’s heart (Proverbs 23:7). Genesis 8:21 records, “The Lord said in His heart.” These writers did not believe that a person has a thinker in his cranium and another thinker in his rib cage. Knowing something in your heart and knowing it in your head are just two different ways of knowing. The heart makes us think of emotions and commitment (feeling, affect). The head makes us think of intellect (cognition). These are both ways of thinking. When Proverbs 4:23, urges, “Keep your heart with all diligence,” it means, “Guard your thinking, what you think, how you think!” Ephesians 6:17 is more like, “Wear Your Helmet!”

In some Scriptures, the idea of thinking relates to the head, but in others it connects with the heart. In fact, in Psalm 73:21, the writer moans that he was grieved in his heart and pricked in his reins. Psalms 26:2 has us asking the Lord, “Try my reins and my heart.” Your reins are your kidneys!

Scripture uses many words to describe various aspects of human nature, but there is no one official list. Sometimes it is just soul and body (Matthew 10:28); other times, spirit, soul, and body (I Thessalonians 5:23). Deuteronomy 6:5 lists heart, soul, and might, but Mark 12:30 turns the same list into heart, soul, mind, and strength. The lists are not an effort to take human nature apart, but to describe the whole person.

We urge riders of bicycles and skateboards to wear a helmet. A simple accident can cost the helmet-less their lives. Spiritually, we are in a war! To saunter around with no helmet is foolish! I Thessalonians 5:8 urges us to put on “the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”

Hope is in the mind. It is in our thinking—where we choose to put our attention, upon what we choose to base our trust! According to Isaiah 59:17, *continued on* **page 10**



Thinking about the
wrong things will
pollute you.

Thinking about the
right things will
renew you!

continued from **page 9** even our Redeemer wears a helmet when he goes forth to accomplish our salvation!

“Be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds,” (Romans 12:2), teaches that spiritual growth comes through some form of thinking, whether new truth, a deeper understanding of familiar truth, or a new application of truth. Praise is generated by thinking on the character of God, or on the wonder of salvation, or about “the pit from whence ye are digged (Isaiah 51:1).

Thinking about the wrong things will pollute you. Thinking about the right things will renew you! That is why Philippians 4:8 presents a filter for the kinds of things we allow in our minds.

Soldier, get your helmet on! Take charge of your thinking! 🛡️

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president

October 5: Rachel and I joined with a great group of senior citizens at Penn View Christian Academy for Grandparent's Day. After taking turns visiting first and sixth grades with granddaughters, Ashley and Lauren, we enjoyed the various presentations from the classes. We appreciated the morning message by the new principal, Rev Brent Lenhart in the G. I. Straub Memorial Tabernacle. In the evening, we returned to campus for the conference-wide Youth Rally where we heard the good singing and challenging message by Rev. Don Bates Jr.

October 7: In the morning, we traveled to the New Lancaster Valley Evangelical Methodist Church where I was honored to dedicate little Naisa Lynn, the daughter of Pastor Nathaniel and Melony Kincaid. Her grandparents traveled many miles to celebrate this special occasion.

October 9: I attended Penn View's chapel service where Rev. Barry Arnold served as evangelist for the school's fall revival. In the afternoon, I conducted a Penns Creek Camp board meeting.

October 12: We enjoyed breakfast with my mother and some of our children before taking her back to Tioga County. After helping her with some needed chores, we hurried back the 125 miles arriving in time to attend another night of the Penn View revival.

October 13: Our hearts were saddened for our daughter-in-law, Alicia, in the passing of her grandmother, Nellie Phoebus. Bill and Nellie have been long-time missionaries to the Navajo Indians in Gallup, NM, along with Alicia's parents, Don and Nona Phoebus.

October 14: This was the Harvest Home/Pastor Appreciation Day for the Lebanon congregation. Thank you to Larry and Martha Shuey for the fine accommodations. We enjoyed food, fellowship and a tour of the parsonage after the evening service in the home of Pastor and Mrs. Alan Walter.

October 15: I attended a Home Mission's board meeting from 9:00 am—1:30 pm.

October 16-21: I was honored to preach a revival meeting at the Freedonia Holiness church near Marshall, MI. I enjoyed being with this fine congregation. I appreciated the nice guest quarters and the great fellowship and care of Pastor and Mrs. John Gilley and daughter Shyanne.

October 23: Most of my day was spent in a Penn View board meeting. In the evening, we attended revival meeting at the Beavertown church with Mary Braun and Penny Ford singing and Rev. Noel Scott preaching.

October 26: I attended the viewing for the mother of Mrs. Gordon (Linda) Kincaid also the grandmother of Rev. Nathaniel Kincaid, Lorna Vermilea, in Salem, OH.

October 28: Rachel and I enjoyed the friendly welcome by the Northampton congregation where I preached in the morning service. We enjoyed the fellowship and fine meal in the parsonage with Pastor and Mrs. David Walter and daughter, Jessica. In the evening, I preached at the Leighton church, where the people are doing their best to keep things going while still in search of a pastor. Thank you to Lamar and Julie Moyer for taking care of many details during this time and for the packed lunch to enjoy on the ride home.

October 29 & 30: Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy made its way through our area. We had little damage, but are saddened for those who lost so much.

October 31: I conducted another Penn View board meeting today from 9:00 am - 5:30 pm. In the evening Rachel and I attended the Millmont



HARRY PLANK

revival with Rev. Barry Arnold preaching and the Derek McIntire family singing.

November 4: We were with the Chambersburg congregation in the morning. After preaching the morning message, I conducted an election for a new pastor, which resulted in an excellent vote for Rev. Nathaniel Mowery. Please keep this little Home Mission's congregation in your prayers, that they will be able

to find a building to use as a church. They have been worshiping in a rented hall, which is less than ideal. Thank you to Darlene Woy for providing lunch for us and for supply ministers most every Sunday since June. In the evening, we enjoyed hearing the Penn View Choir at the Mountain Road church.

November 5: I conducted a General Board Meeting in the morning. In the afternoon, I rode along with our son, Jim and granddaughter, Jennifer, to hear presidential candidate, Mitt Romney, speak in Manchester, NH. We were thankful to hear that our son, Jon arrived safely in Tegucigalpa, Honduras where he will be with Hope International missionaries, Eric and Hannah Kuhns, for the next two weeks.

November 6: Presidential elections. It is disappointing that many election results were in favor of promoting of sin and wickedness, but what a comfort to know that our trust is in the Almighty God who is in control. In the evening, we were privileged to hear high school senior, Nick Rine, preach his first sermon, reminding us that our hope is in the Lord!

November 9: We attended the Penn View Christmas benefit auction.

November 11: Several members of our family were welcomed by the Gratz Emanuel Wesleyan church where I spoke in honor of Veteran's Day, sharing with them the story of my father's part in WWII, including the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

November 13: I took a flight from the Harrisburg airport to Alexandria, LA where I preached the first night of revival meeting at the Tioga Wesleyan Methodist Church. It was a coincidence that our daughter-in-law and two granddaughters were on the same flight the first half of the journey. They were on their way to join our son, Jon, who is in Honduras this week. It was yet another surprise to find Barry Arnold on the same flight en-route to preach a revival meeting in Oklahoma!

November 14: I appreciate the hospitality of Pastor David Kaufman and family. It is an honor to be with this congregation this week. 📌

crusaders

Stay Alert!

ANTHONY HARRIS

1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

This verse gives a stern warning and caution to remind us that we are in a battle. There is a battle fighting our thought life, our time management, our churches, families, and us as individuals. That is why this

verse is so imperative in nature. It is a call to be alert, awake, and aware of the enemy. It is not, if the enemy will come but when. We must be careful to not crowd our minds, lives, and schedules with so many things, even though they may be legitimate. Such things may cause us to become unaware of our enemy.

When the military goes to battle, they are not fighting for the fun of it. They are fighting for values, and principles that they believe in and hold dear. We have a fierce enemy that is fighting to destroy you,

your family, your church. There are three things to keep in mind about our enemy the devil: he is real, relentless, and resistible.

The devil is not a fictitious character who wears a cape, carry's a pitchfork, and has horns. He is real, fierce, and committed to destroying lives. He doesn't always come as a roaring lion as Peter suggests, but also as an angel of light or a subtle serpent. He is real and he knows your weaknesses, struggles, and is waiting for the right time to attack and make your life a living hell. This is why we must continuously remain on our guard against the enemy. Our enemy is a relentless one. It would be great if this enemy would only tempt us once and it was done. Rather, he is watching out for you and waiting for you to become vulnerable, because he wants to destroy your life.

All of this so far is the bad news. The good news is, this enemy is resistible. James 4:7b says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." If you are going to resist, then it is going to take some discipline on your part: discipline in devotions, persistence in prayer, and keeping pure in your thoughts, actions, and speech. This is something that requires our relentless effort. I also find great comfort in understanding that the devil is resistible by looking at his origin. The scriptures tell us that the devil was a being created by God Himself. The devil is not more powerful than God because God is his creator. It is no wonder John penned the words "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." One day our enemy, this roaring lion, will be defeated by the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Until then, we must remain alert and watchful! ■

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