

March 3, 2024

Where is the Boasting?

by George Slover

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

As America approaches another election year, I've thought about the above verses. In the context, Jeremiah is forecasting the Chaldean invasion of Judah and the total destruction that would accompany this invasion. Judah cannot boast in her wisdom, might, or riches. She can only boast in God.

These verses remind us of how we are inclined to over value all of the wrong things. The world would have us to believe that wisdom, might, and riches are sources of security. All of them are valuable servants, but they do not save. By wisdom one thinks he can elevate his status among men. By might one may try to bully his way to the goal. With riches one may buy much. None of these could prevent an invasion from Babylon. They cannot buy off sickness, disappointment, or punishment for sin.

The knowledge of God is the true glory of man. Such knowledge leads to an understanding of three attributes

of God: lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness. Jehovah exercises his tender mercy toward those who are weak and in need. He is a king who judges impartially. By his righteousness, he leads his people to a heavenly rule of conduct. Those who know him will seek to practice these virtues toward others. Any strength we have will rest upon our spiritual values, our character and our purpose. Our strength is in knowing God and obeying his will.

There is a natural tendency for one to rejoice unduly in carnal things—education, power, prestige, or wealth. None of these have real value, for they are temporary. Our strength is not in a "brain trust" in Washington or in Wall St. They can be removed at any time. But, fellowship with God is absolute and eternally satisfying. In Him there is no insecurity, no fear of disappointment.

Fight For It

by Rickie Jenkins

No matter what "it" is, we get to choose what we will fight for. When a person is trying to get in shape, it is a fight to continue to go to the gym and work out. When raising children, it is a fight to teach them right and wrong. When married, it is a fight to resist the overtures of Satan to sabotage your marriage. Challenges in life abound and

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, March 12 at 10 a.m.

Our Next Gospel Meeting is scheduled for March 24-27 with David Raif

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

it is a fight to overcome each one. It is a fight to be able to stand at the end.

Paul said, "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." He said, "Take up the whole armor of the Lord to be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand. Stand therefore..." (Eph. 6:10-16). So, Paul says Fight!"

We must fight for the principles of righteousness and godliness. In a world whose values are completely opposite to righteousness and godliness, we are called upon to fight for them. If we don't stand up for righteousness and godliness, who will? With the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, we, like Jesus, say, "It is written," then show people what is written. "It is written" is the defense Jesus used to withstand the overtures of the devil. The word is quick and powerful (Heb. 4:12). It reveals thoughts and intents of the heart (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

We must fight for our homes. The home is the basic and most fundamental unit of society. If the home fails, society fails. We see the effects of broken homes in our world. Home with dads who are absent. Homes where children are born to one mother, but each child has a different father. Our families are the most precious people in our lives. When we fight to save lives, it is their lives we fight the hardest for. God made them male and female. Adam and Eve had no issue with their gender. Today, the devil is trying to destroy our homes. He knows if he can destroy them, he will succeed in destroying the church and the rule of law. He doesn't have to attack the church on a frontal assault. He knows if he destroys the home, then the people in that home who comprise the church will fail also.

The great thing is we get to choose what we fight for. If it is worth anything, fight for it. If it is worthy, fight for it, then don't give up when it gets hard. If

it is worth time, effort, commitment, energy, and sacrifice, then persevere.

Battles will come and go. They will not all be pleasant. In fact, most of the time they are not. There will be times when we fail. We will get knocked down and want to give up. Just remember God's grace shines the brightest in the darkest moments. He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above all we ask and can bring victory when defeat seems imminent (Eph. 3:20). Perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:19). If it is worth loving, fight for it and overcome the fear to conquer. In those moments when we do fail, remember that failure is not permanent. It is the power of faith, hope and love, and the greatest is love that wins the battle (1 Cor. 13:13).

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is suffering cognitive and balance issues.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Debbie McMurray is isolating at home after her therapies and compromised immune system.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister's home

Elaine Kersh is in Granite Mesa Room 308.

Rita Bostic is recovering from an infection.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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