

"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16

BE NOT AFRAID

Fear can be a positive function in life. Fear can keep a child from running across a busy street, avoiding the danger of being hit by an automobile.



Fear will motivate a man to exit from a burning building as quickly as possible. Fear of a pending punishment for breaking the law causes some to rethink their actions. Godly Fear will motivate a man to obey the laws of God, encouraging him to remain faithful unto death.

On the other hand, Satan has used the weapon of fear against the Christian, trying to destroy his faith.

Fear of ridicule and rejection has intimidated, and has silenced some Christians from shining their lights. It would behoove us to remember that Christ has called us to be bold, and we must not allow fear to prevent us from sounding forth the word. Because of fear of mockery and humiliation we don't tell others about God's redemptive plan for saving man's soul. When was the last time you considered the words of Jesus, when He said; ***"Blessed are you when others revile***

you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matt. 5:11-12). Do we have the same confidence that the apostle Paul had? Would you shout aloud to the world that you are ***"not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes"*** (Rom. 1:16)?

We may tell ourselves that we are not ashamed of the Gospel, but fear paralyzes us into inaction. Any enthusiasm for the Lord is overwhelmed by fears of risks and obstacles ahead. Let's not be categorized with the one-talent man in Matthew 25. For you see fear frightened him into doing nothing.

Are you going to allow fear to prevent you from entering heaven? Then why allow it to prevent you from telling others about this great place, and what they need to do in order to go there? ***"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear"*** (1John 4:18). -Fred Singleton

"I AM SET FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL"

Throughout the years the gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity and simplicity, as well as its completeness, has been attacked. Men have sought to destroy and to set at naught the "power of God unto salvation." (Rom 1:16).

This evidently was true in Paul's day for we find a statement of his in Phil. 1:17 where he says, "knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel." So it was evident to them, those in Philippi that Paul had a fixed purpose, one carefully thought out and expresses, not only in word, but in action. This was manifested faithfully by Paul on a number of

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occasions by his defense of the word of God.

It was not his purpose to defend the religion of the Jews, in which he was so well instructed, and excelled. Nor the various positions handed down by tradition. His avowed determination was to defend the truth, and he was "set" for it. In defending the truth he defended the positions that the faithful are to hold.



Like Paul, we should "be set," not for the defense of inherited positions, pet projects, or previously espoused doctrines, but for the defense of the gospel of Christ, the truth that frees. To do so, involves learning God's will (and how badly some need to) that we may know *what* we stand for and *why*, and that because it is authorized in the inspired scriptures. Indeed, our position should be, and **must be** to defend the truth, nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else.

When this is our position, we are at liberty to accept the truth as we learn it, and are not bound to try to justify and defend an unscriptural position in which we may find ourselves.

When one takes a stand for a certain position, he is obligated to attempt to defend it, regardless of what the word of God teaches.

Truly there is a difference in defending the truth, and in defending a certain position or practice. To defend the truth is not only easier, but it is the honorable thing to do, so may we determine to "earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered unto the saints"; by so doing we can save ourselves and them that hear us. To do otherwise is to tread on dangerous ground which leads farther away from the Lord. For what are you set? -Eugene Crawley (The Preceptor, March 1962)

Support faithful gospel preaching this week!

"EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES"



1. To whom did Jesus first appear after His resurrection? _____¹
2. How did Gideon's army win the battle against the Midianites? _____²
3. What type of tree did Zacchaeus climb in order to see Jesus? _____³

Fill In The Blanks From Memory

1. "So then _____ comes by _____, and hearing by the _____ of God"
2. "And now why are you _____? Arise and be _____, and _____ away your _____, calling on the name of the Lord."
3. "And He said, "Who _____ you that _____ were _____? Have you _____ from the tree of which I _____ you that you should not _____?" (Scriptures based on the NKJV)

¹ Mark 16:9

² Judges 7:19-21

³ Luke 19:4

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Private Bible studies available anytime!!

Schedule:

Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00AM

Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:45 PM

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