



Iron Sharpening Iron

Looking at the *Armour of God* from Ephesians chapter 6, a person is forced to recognize that for the most part all of the armor is defensive in nature, that is until we get to the place we have now come to. We now come to what is really the only piece of the armor that is set as a weapon of warfare in the offensive.

Ephesians 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

The Bible has a lot to say about the power and use of God’s Word as a sword. *Hebrews 4:11-13*

“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

In this passage, the writer of Hebrews speaks of the importance of laboring in the gaining of knowledge in God’s Word so we don’t fall into disbelief. Then he tells of the power that is available in the proper understanding and usage of the Word of God. In *verse 13* he brings in another very important fact, nothing and nobody is able to stand against the properly wielded Sword of the Spirit. We have a great example of this in Matthew 4, as The Spirit of God leads Christ into the wilderness to be tempted of Satan. Notice in this example the brashness of Satan, he doesn’t turn to flee because he’s dealing with Christ, the one true God. He’s turned away as Christ continues to wield the *Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God*. *Matthew 4:4, 7, 10, 11*

4 “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (*Deuteronomy 8:3*)

7 “Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” (*Deuteronomy 6:16*)

10 “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written,

Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (*Deuteronomy 6:13*)

11 “Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”

We can also see the connotation that this is the same weapon that Christ will utilize when He returns to this world at His second coming. *Revelation 19:11-16*

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True,

and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations:

and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Remember, this is the same weapon God has given us as part of the armor that He supplies for our journey on this earth. Wow, what an advantage and opportunity that God has supplied each of us with. We have been given the ability to use the same weapon Jesus Christ has used and will use again when He returns. It is your duty to work with it. Study it, learn how to use it well. Let us not only train with it, let us teach our children and those coming behind us, the importance of this weapon and how to use it as well.

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2Timothy 3:14-17

Because God is good--all the time,

Pastor Ron Mandeville



1 Peter 2:15 says, “For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men [...]” In youth group on Wednesday nights we have been going through the book of 1 Peter. The Apostle Peter’s message in 1 Peter is one of encouraging perseverance; helping his audience to recognize the worthwhile sacrifice of persecution here on this earth for the cause of Christ. Peter addresses many issues Christians can find themselves in (1 Peter is very practical in this way). The issue at hand I mentioned previously (in 2:15) is one of what we have come to know as “living above reproach.” How do I keep people from falsely accusing me – live above reproach!

It’s that simple, right? Of course, by “that simple” I mean that it isn’t complicated, but how we go about it is where there may be contention. Let’s first define our terms: what does it mean to live above reproach? The Apostle Paul uses the phrase (in the KJV it is translated “blameless”) several times, in 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:6-7 and the list goes on. Blameless is a pretty good way to understand it: unable to be called into question or account. It isn’t possible to blame because they have removed themselves from any ability to be at fault – they have placed themselves above or apart from the ability to be accused. In these passages the Apostle Paul is specifically speaking to church elders/leadership. I do not think however, that this command is exclusive just to them. Scripture usually speaks directly to either one person or one group of people but there can still be application for you and me (since we were not the original audience) this is attributive to the timeless nature of Scripture. What is my point? If living above reproach is a command to those in church leadership, that means it is an excellent recommendation to everyone else. If you keep getting blamed for your associations as a lay person in the church, live in such a way that places you apart from any ability to be accused. This may mean sacrifice on your part but what things of true value aren’t worth sacrificing for?

In conclusion, Peter’s instruction is full of wisdom. “Do the right thing every time and foolish men looking to condemn you will have no ability to accuse you of wrongdoing” (my paraphrase). This is God’s will. This is the way He intended it to be. Why would I – and sometimes do I – settle for anything less? It isn’t easy. But I’ll say again: this may mean sacrifice but what things of true value aren’t worth sacrificing for? This concept lies in the words of David in 2 Samuel 24:24: “[...] neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing.” Do you see the value in sacrificing that which may merely appear evil for the sake of living a blameless life for Christ? Does it cause us to say like David, I won’t offer to God something that wasn’t a sacrifice for me? It should; and you’ll find in the end it was worth it!

Because He is Worthy,

Pastor Ethan

Board Members:
Pastor Ron Mandeville (Elder);
Pastor Ethan Mandeville (Elder);
Mike Julian (Elder);
Dave Hawthorn (Elder);
Mike Orpin (Deacon);
Shaun Julian (Deacon);
Jeff Newboles (Deacon);
Derek Hodgson (Deacon).

Valentine's Banquet 2024

Our annual Valentine's Banquet had a delay this year due to illness, but it was held a week latter. All went well. There was good preaching, food and games with prizes. What an enjoyable evening

See the pictures below.



Coming Events

April

- 2 L.E.T. Group 6 pm.
- 6 Sharing God's Word 9 am.
- 13 Sharing God's Word 9 am.
- 14 Annual Emergency Preparedness meeting 6 pm.
- 15 Tax Day
- 20 Sharing God's Word 9 am.
- 24 K4T Performance 6:45 pm.
- 27 Sharing God's Word 9 am.
VBS work night 6 pm.

May

- 1 K4T Finale 6:45 pm.
- 4 Sharing God's Word 9 am.
- 5 Fellowship Groups 6 pm.
- 11 Sharing God's Word 9 am.
- 12 Mother's Day
- 14 L.E.T. Group 6 pm. At the church
- 18 Sharing God's Word 9 am.
- 19 Fellowship Groups 6 pm.
Graduation/Promotion Sunday
- 25 Sharing God's Word 9 am.
- 27 Memorial Day - the church office will be closed

Dodgeball tournament 2024 The Annual Teen Dodgeball Tournament was held March 2.



Learning the rules and checking out the prizes.



Ready to start the competition!



The 2024 Dodgeball Champions!

Kid's Konnection

Big Christian Word

Backbiting; to say mean or hurtful things about a person (such as someone who isn't present.) Saying false things about a person. (Corinthians 12:20) (Proverbs 25:23)

BE THE

"I" IN

KIND.



Nursery Schedule Wednesdays	
April	
3rd	Mary—Jill
10th	Mary—Tina
17th	Mary—Laren
24th	Mary—Tina
May	
1st	Mary -Jill
8th	Mary- Tina
15th	Mary—Laren
22nd	Mary—Jill
29th	Mary—Tina

Nursery Schedule		
April	Sunday School	Church
7	Erin-Laura	Sabrina-Jenny
14	Erin-Judy	Jennifer-Sammie
21	Erin-Suzanne	Leslie-Margaret-Stacy
28	Erin-Makele	Lindy-Jill-Khloe
May		
5	Erin-Laura	Jeanne-Jennifer-Stacy
12	Erin-Judy	Sabrina-Khloe
19	Ein-Suzanne	Jill-Jenny
26	Erin-Makele	Leah-Macy-Mary

Medora's Munchies



By Dave Hawthorne

Ingredients

- 2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and cored
- 2 (10 ounce) cans refrigerated crescent roll dough
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle Mountain Dew
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla

Instructions

- 1 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.
- 2 Cut each apple into 8 wedges, then set aside.
- 3 Unroll the crescent roll dough and separate into triangles. Roll each apple wedge in crescent roll dough starting at the smallest end. After wrapping dough around each apple slice, place the dumplings in the baking dish.
- 4 In a small saucepan, melt the butter and stir in the brown sugar. Continue cooking until it is well blended and thickens, stirring constantly. Then stir in the cinnamon and vanilla. Pour mixture over the apple dumplings.
- 5 Pour Mountain Dew(TM) around the dumplings. (Not on top of them!)
- 6 Bake for 35 to 45 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden brown.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 L.E.T. Group 6 pm. Beth Howard Birthday	3 K4T 6:45 pm	4	5	6 Sharing God's Word 9am.
7 Lindy Brooks Birthday Fellowship Groups 6 pm.	8 Sabrina Julian & Susie Ratzlaff Birthdays	9 Jenny Brooks Birthday	10 K4T 6:45 pm	11	12 Blake Goering Birthday	13 Sharing God's Word 9am. Annual Emergency Preparedness meeting 6 pm.
14 Caleb Miller Birthday Annual Tornado Drill	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	16	17 K4T 6:45 pm	18	19	20 Sharing God's Word 9am. Chuck & Schari Porter Anniversary
21 Fellowship Groups 6 pm. Tornado Drill	22 Earth Day	23	24 K4T 6:45 pm Performance	25	26 Arbor Day	27 Sharing God's Word 9am. VBS Work Night 6pm.
28 Sanda Cheptea Birthday	29 Chuck Porter Birthday	30				

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 K4T 6:45 pm Finale Troy & Lisa Wilder Anniversary	2	3	4 Sharing God's Word 9am.
5 Fellowship Groups 6 pm. Joanna Wallis Birthday	6 Suzanne Davis Birthday	7	8 Warren & Emilie Bontrager Anniversary	9	10	11 Sharing God's Word 9am.
12 	13	14 L.E.T. Group 6 pm At the church.	15 John Werner Birthday	16	17 Schari Porter & John Schroeder Birthdays	18 Armed Forces Day Sharing God's Word 9am. Carter Mandeville & Tina Penner Birthdays Teen Garage Sale
19 Fellowship Groups 6 pm. Graduation/Promotion Sunday	20	21	22 James & Jill Brown Anniversary	23 Dalene Westover Birthday	24	25 Sharing God's Word 9am.
26 Leah Mandeville Birthday Bill & Dalene Westover Anniversary	27 Memorial Day  Office is closed Taylor Wallis Birthday	28 Carol Dannels & Cynthia Peterson Birthdays	29	30	31	

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