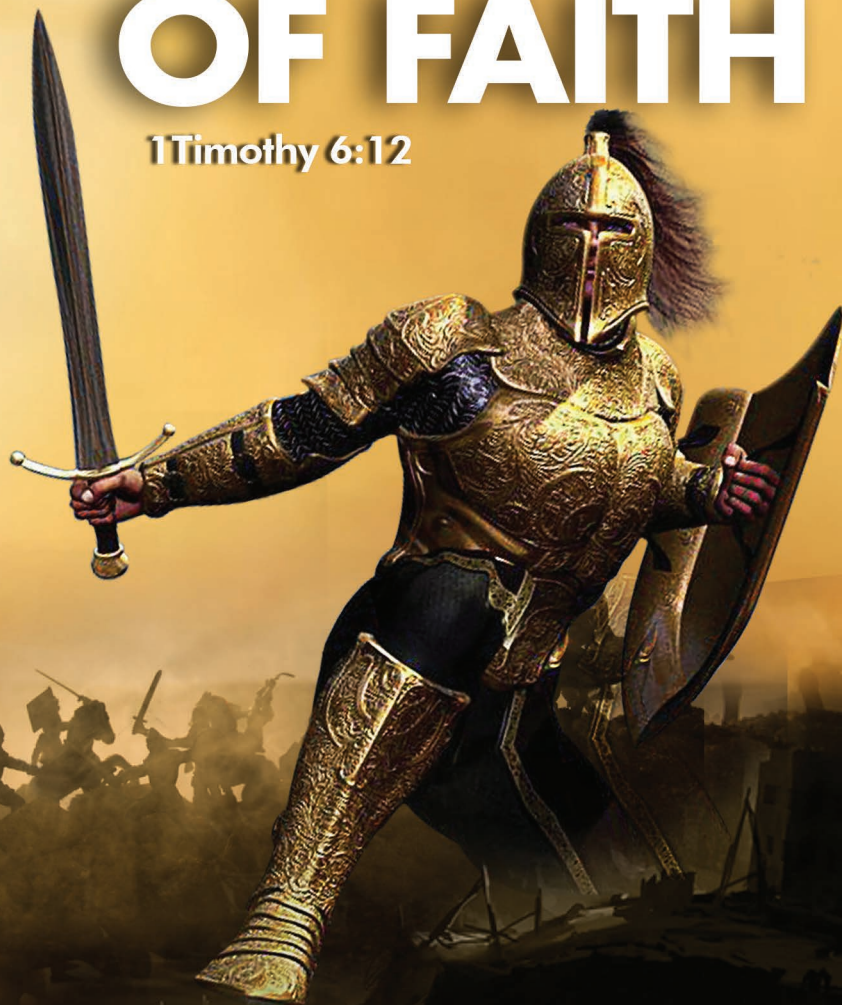


FIGHT

the good fight

OF FAITH

1 Timothy 6:12





**BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE FOR
JANUARY – DECEMBER
2019**

THEME

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH. 1 TIMOTHY 6:12

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Word from the Senior Pastor

Waiting for the Return of our Lord Jesus Christ does not close until He appears or He calls us Home individually. Having, therefore, spent the time in our previous study on the Coming of Christ, the likely question is: What next, for those of us who are still alive?

Instead of standing and idly, gazing into the sky awaiting our Lord, we rather need to get down to the brass tacks. There is work to do in preparation for His Coming. This work involves or solely consist of getting our orders in tune, being well familiar with the environment in which we are waiting, and conducting ourselves accordingly in order that our Lord and Master comes to find us ready for Him.

Since the environment in which we are waiting did not receive our Lord in pomp and pageantry, and He forewarned us (Jn.16:33) that it will be hostile to us, we need to see ourselves as people in battle against its rudiments. Our waiting is therefore a call to arms, a call to resistance, a call to pursue, and a call to be steadfast. The apostle Paul, rightly referred to this waiting in a hostile environment as a 'Fight' (1 Tim. 6:12).

It is a battle against principalities and powers, and rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12). It is a battle-call that requires adorning the "whole armour of God" (v.11) in order to stand and do effective battle. It is a battle against an enemy who daily roars like a lion, expressing himself in thoughts, attitudes, habits, ambitions, desires and emotions that are intended to destroy (devour) us. His main goal is to sway us off our set course with hollow and deceptive substitutes. However, the dynamism of our adversary comes nowhere near, in fact it pales into insignificance in the face of, the intercessory and mediatory role of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's charge to Timothy in 1 Tim. 6:12, brings to light the need to "Fight the good fight of faith ..."

This battle is unlike any other fight. It should be fought not on our own terms, but under the strict instruction of our Commander-in-Chief – Our Lord Jesus Christ if we are to prevail against the enemy. It is a ‘good’ fight of ‘faith’.

It is a battle that is won by being steadfast and single-minded – looking only unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the beginning and the end of our faith. God willing, until Christ comes we will continue to be engaged in this “good fight of faith”, grasping firmly to our eternal hope and life in Christ Jesus, our soon coming Lord and King.

May His grace keep us actively engaged in this ‘good’ fight of ‘faith’ as we study this material. May the material help equip us to become better warriors in the battle of faith and heroes and heroines in the Lord’s Hall of Fame.

Rev. Emmanuel Kwasi Osae-Addo
Head Pastor
January, 2019

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, on behalf of the Ghana Evangelical Convention, express my appreciation to the select Team that laboured to put together this study material. The team consisted of Rev. Dr. T. B. Dankwa who was the only veteran among them, who brought his invaluable experience to bear on the production of the material. We very much appreciate his contribution. We equally express our gratitude to the rest of the Team members, who, though new to the task, grasped the opportunity to be part of this venture. Their contributions are well acknowledged here and appreciated. They are Mr. Divine Vigbedor (Chairman of the Team), Dr. Mrs. Audrey Anno and Dr. Yaw Kusi-Mensah. We thank them so much for their devotion to the task.

The best appreciation we can express to them is to let them see us all actively engaged in the “good fight of faith.’ Their labour would not then have been in vain.

Last, but not the least, is our appreciation to the printers and publishers, GILLBT. The Lord Jesus bless them for helping to make this material nicely readable. Once again, the Lord bless all who in diverse ways helped to make this material a reality. Amen.

Rev. Emmanuel Kwasi Osae-Addo
(Head Pastor)

GENERAL INFORMATION

This study has been designed with the study time as 40 minutes in mind. As such the possible time allocation is as follows:

Opening prayer	2mins
Learning memory verse	5mins
Main Study	25mins
Memory Verse revision	5mins
Closing prayer	3mins

Most of the time when we get home, we do not complete the study we began in church. The questions in these studies are designed such that we will be able to complete them within the allotted time.

Cross referencing has been reduced to barest minimum so we can focus on the text. As much as possible, let the focus be on the text and bring the answer from there.

The versions of the Bible from which the memory verses have been taken are: Complementary English Version (CEV), Good News Bible (GNB), God's Word (GW), International Standard Version (ISV), King James Version (KJV), New International Version (NIV) and the New King James Version (NKJV).

The memory verse have been chosen from these translations. The hope is that they will make memorization easier as they reflect the study.

SOME GUIDELINES FOR THE BIBLE STUDY

1. Don't be afraid of silence, especially after questions requiring careful thought. Where silence is "unusual" reframe the question.
2. Never say that an answer or viewpoint is wrong. But tactfully ask, "In what verse did you find that?" or "How did you arrive at that?" or "What does someone else think about this point?"
3. Ask several people to contribute viewpoints especially on strategic interpretation or application.
4. If a strong disagreement arises, refer to the text. Make a valid summary of the positive points and move on. If there is no clear answer, refer to another passage or assign the subject to be worked out for the next time.
5. Encourage shy members by looking their way occasionally. When you sense they are ready for verbal participation, ask directly a simple but important question.
6. Discourage talkative members from monopolising by directing questions to others. If necessary, speak to them privately about the need for discussion rather than a lecture in the group.
7. Show the well informed members who frequently digress with cross references or other topics the value of keeping to the text.
8. Omit cross references unless necessary. Sometimes, it means someone is trying to solve a problem superficially by citing another passage rather than searching the present text more carefully.
9. Suggest that controversial issues be discussed another time other than during the Bible study. Majority of members may get their time wasted on controversy

Final 1Q
FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH. 1 Timothy 6:12

FIRST QUARTER STUDIES.

What is the Good Fight?

General Introduction to First Quarter Studies

Whilst we are watching and waiting for Christ's Second Coming, we are to persevere in battle, going about our Father's business. The Apostle Paul described this battle as the "Good Fight". Before anyone can fight any cause, he must be convinced that the cause is worth fighting for.

This quarter we want to kick start our studies on "Fighting the Good Fight" by looking at:

1. Who is called to fight?
2. What we are called to do?
3. Some examples of people who have blazed the trail ahead of us.

Come along and let us see what God's word says about these things. It, indeed, promises to be an exciting time of Bible Study.

Introduction

All over the world, diverse people are fighting different causes with much conviction. In order to understand what the good fight is, and what the fight is all about, we need to know those called to fight. Who we are would define what we fight for. Today we want to look at those called to fight the good fight.

Memory Verse Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” NKJV

Study Questions

1. Who saved us from sin? If salvation is a gift of God, how would you describe grace (v. 8)? What do we mean when we say we are saved?

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2. How are we saved (v. 8)? What is the role of faith? Give an illustration of faith in real life.

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3. What is the difference between salvation by grace and salvation by works (v.9)? How can one be sure he/she is saved?

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4. When we are saved we do not just sit and wait for the Lord's return. What is expected of us after we are saved (v. 10)?

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Conclusion

The good fight is one all Christians are called to fight. God equips us for this fight and He fights for and with us. It is only after we have been called into God's army through salvation can we fight the good fight. Salvation is by grace and not by our good deeds as some believe. We shall all give account of how we fought the good fight when Christ returns.

Golden Nuggets- Are you assured of your Salvation today? Talk to the Pastoral Team if you are not.

Introduction

When a people or nation are called to fight, there is usually a cause for which they are fighting. In this study, we are going to define who we are and the cause for which we are fighting the good fight.

Memory verse Matthew 28:18b-20a

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” NIV

Study Questions

1. Who are we in Christ, according to verse 9a? What does each statement mean? Which gives you the greatest joy?

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2. What have we been called to do (v. 9b)? How do we demonstrate our obedience in our day to day living?

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3. How should we conduct ourselves in this world (v.11)? Why?

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4. How will you explain verse 12 in your own words?

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5. How easy or difficult have you found it to follow this directive?

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Conclusion

We have been called not to live for ourselves, but to proclaim salvation and to declare, through word and deed, the praises of him who brought us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Introduction

When the Lord Jesus calls us from darkness into His marvelous light, He expects us to live our lives to reflect his nature. In this study , let us identify what the Lord expects of us.

Memory verse John 15:16a

“You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit- fruit that will last” NIV

Study Questions

1. How are we supposed to live (v. 16)? What is “the sinful nature” NIV or “the flesh” KJV?

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2. What is the nature of the conflict described in v. 17? What part can we play to ensure victory over the sinful nature/flesh?

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3. Make a list of the following:

I) Acts of the sinful nature. (Vs. 19-21)

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II) Components of the FRUIT of the Spirit. (Vs. 22-23)

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Explain briefly what each act or component means or is expressed.

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4. Which of the characteristics mentioned in Question 3 above should be seen in the Christian? How is this achieved?

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Conclusion

Knowing who we are in Christ is good, but not enough. The Holy Spirit in us makes us more and more like Christ as we cooperate with him. We need to be holy if we are to be successful in fighting the good fight.

Introduction

The Good Fight is one that requires faith. There would be challenges as seen in every battle, but we must have faith that God would take us through. Abraham demonstrated uttermost faith in God and it was credited to him as righteousness. Let us take a look at how Abraham demonstrated faith in God.

Memory Verse Hebrews 11:17a

“It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing Him.” NLT

Study Questions

1. What did God ask Abraham to do (v. 2)? Why was this a hard thing for Abraham to do? What does v.3 show about Abraham's readiness to obey God?

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2. In vs. 10 and 11, Abraham prepares to sacrifice Isaac but is stopped by the angel of the Lord. How did God describe Abraham in v. 12?

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3. a) How would you describe Abraham's faith (v. 12)? What is the link between faith and the fear of the Lord?

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b) Name some of the things we treasure. If God asked you to sacrifice something dear to you, how would respond?

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4. In what ways are you building up your faith in God? What help do you receive from other Christians?
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Conclusion

There are several examples in the Bible that demonstrate how our FAITH is key in our Christian journey. The heroes of faith, as described in Hebrews 11, had faith in God and his promises to them, most of them not seeing the full manifestation of these promises. Hebrews 11:6a says that without faith it is impossible to please God. We must build up our faith if we are to fight the good fight.

Golden Nuggets- If God asked you to sacrifice something very dear to you, would you do it?

Introduction:

As we embark on our pilgrimage through this world we would invariably be called upon to make choices either to please God or to please ourselves or to please men. In our study today let us find out what choices Moses made and what informed his choices.

Memory verse Hebrews 11 : 6

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” NIV

Study Questions

1. In this passage how many times is the phrase “By faith” mentioned? What would you say is the reason for this repetition?

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2. In which ways did Moses' faith influence the choices he made in each verse in the passage? How has your faith influenced your choices? Give an example.

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3. State verse 26 in your own words. Give an example of another Bible character who made a similar choice. In what situations may a Ghanaian Christian have to make such a choice?

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4. In verses 23 and 27, we read that faith overcame fear. What encouragement should this give you whenever you are afraid?
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Conclusion

The Christian life is a life of faith. The believer is often faced with challenges which will test his resolve to follow Christ, no matter what it will cost him. Those who are on the Lord's side shall always triumph, aided by the Holy Spirit. When we believe that God will fulfill His promises even though we do not see those promises materializing yet, we demonstrate true faith.

Introduction

The journey to the Promised Land was initiated by God under the leadership of Moses. By the power of God, they overcame many adversities, human and natural, on the way until they came to the land of Canaan. How did they respond to the report of those who went to explore the land? Was their faith in God equal to the perceived threats in the report they received? Let us learn from the examples of Joshua and Caleb as they confronted a nation paralyzed by fear.

Memory verse Numbers 14 : 9a

“Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up.” NIV

Study Questions

1. What do you see as the difference in the attitude of Joshua and Caleb and the rest of the group who went to explore the land? See 13:31; 14:8-9.

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2. Why do you think Joshua and Caleb responded to the fear that spread through the camp the way they did? What can fear do to faith? What should you do when fear threatens to overcome you?

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3. What facts about God can you find in today’s study? Why is it a better choice to remind ourselves of who God is and what he can do rather than stare at the challenges we face?

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4. What two important lessons can we learn from verse 9? Turn verse 9 into your own personal statement as an affirmation of your faith in the power of God to help you overcome your present difficulties.

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Conclusion

The Christian life is a journey of faith in and total dependence on God, as we keep in mind His promise to deliver us from the enemies we face daily. Yes, the Christian has enemies – both internal and external. Our victory over them comes from the Lord. It is our faith in the Lord that makes us victorious

Introduction

Some would have us believe that Christians are spared suffering in their lives. Certainly, not while preaching the Gospel? We find the experience of Paul and Silas in Philippi very different from what is being taught by some today. Yet note how they responded to this nasty treatment.

Memory verse John 16: 33

“I have told you this, so that you might have peace in your hearts because of me. While you are in the world, you will have to suffer. But cheer up! I have defeated the world.” CEV

Study Questions

1. What part did the owners of the slave girl, the crowd and the magistrates play in the arrest and humiliation of Paul and Silas (v. 22)? How were they treated (vs. 22-23a)?

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2. If you were the jailer, what would you have done differently (vs. 23-24)?

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3. What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight (v. 25)? How could they do this after their severe punishment? What lesson can we learn from their example?

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4. a. How did God answer his servants (v. 26)? How would this response of God encourage the bruised and battered Apostles?

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b. Let us take turns to share one lesson we have learnt from today's study.
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Conclusion

God has not promised the Christian a trouble free life. He has, however, promised that he will be with us in trouble and nothing can cut us off from his love. Whatever he allows to come our way will work for our good. He will never allow us to be tested beyond what we can endure. Let this conviction fill our minds as we face one problem or the other.

Final 2Q
FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH. 1 Timothy 6:12

SECOND QUARTER STUDIES.

The Obstacles To The Good Fight

General introduction to Second Quarter Studies

The Bible teaches clearly that every Christian is engaged in a battle –“The Good Fight”.

To successfully wage “ the Good Fight” we need to identify the obstacles that stand in the way of victory- the enemies within and outside which must fight daily.

In this second quarter, our studies shall focus on six major obstacles: (1) the flesh/sinful nature, (2) the World (a general way and principle of living which is opposed to godliness), (3) the desire for riches and personal gratification, (4) the devil, (5) opposition to the righteous living (6) persecution, where Christians are made to suffer because of their faith and (7) wrong doctrine.

Introduction

In fighting the good fight of faith there are many obstacles that we face. These obstacles have been around for as long as man has been in existence and are common to Christians all over the world. In this study we will look at one such obstacle which we face all the time on our earthly pilgrimage

Memory verse Rom 8:8

“Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.” NIV

Study Questions

1. According to verse 3, what was the problem with the law? How did God solve the problem?

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2. Name the two groups of people mentioned in this passage. What are the differences between these two groups? Give some examples of the acts of the flesh/sinful nature?

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3. According to vs. 12 & 13, what should our obligation be? Why is this an important choice to make?

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4. How can we ensure that we live according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh or sinful nature?

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Conclusion

We are sinful by nature and have a tendency to allow sin to entangle us, which leads to death. Though this struggle with sin is constant, we have victory through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Introduction

“The world” in Scripture may refer to the physical planet, or all the life upon it, or to human civilization and all the systems that govern it. We live in this world, and the things in the world hold a lot of appeal; indeed, sometimes we are swamped by the things around us. What should our attitude be to the world, as we fight the good fight of faith?

Memory verse Romans 12:2

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” NIV

Study Questions

1. What instruction is given in verse 15 of our passage? Why?

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2. How does the Bible describe all that is in the world in verse 16?

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3. Explain “the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does” in your own words and give examples.

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4. Give some practical examples of how the world is influencing Christians and the Church at large. What can we do as Christians to stop this trend?

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Conclusion

According to the Bible, even though we are in the world, we are not of the world. John 17:16. We must keep our focus on Jesus and not get distracted by the world around us. Instead of the Church being influenced by the world, the Church must positively impact the world through Christ.

Introduction

It is hard to survive in the world without money. Without money, the Church's missionary work would be severely handicapped. However, in the parable of "The Rich Young Ruler" (Mark 10:17), the biggest stumbling block to the Young Ruler's salvation was his riches. Money can be a major obstacle in fighting the good fight. In today's study let us explore how to deal with this possible obstacle.

Memory Verse Matthew 13:22B

"Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful." NKJV

Study Questions

1. What brings great gain (v.6.)? How would you define godliness? What does it mean to be content (vs. 6 and 8)?

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2. Why is it futile to try and store money on earth (v. 7)?

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3. How can having a lot of money be a source of temptation (vs. 9-10)? Give practical examples.

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4. Note, it is not money but "the love of money" which is a root of all kinds of evil. In what ways can you ensure the love of money doesn't control you?

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Conclusion

Despite its relevance, if our love for money supersedes our love for God then we shall be hindered in our fight. Let us not be caught in the euphoria of seeking money first and God's kingdom last, but rather let us store up treasures for ourselves in heaven.

Quote of the week- Money is something but it is not EVERYTHING

Introduction

From the creation of man till date, the devil has been man's biggest adversary. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God, was not immune from the attacks of the devil. He was tempted in the wilderness after fasting for 40 days (Matt 4:1). The devil is constantly looking for ways to destroy man and to hinder him from fulfilling his God-given mandate. In fighting the good fight, we must not be oblivious of our oldest enemy, Lucifer.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:12

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” NKJV

Study Questions

1. How is the devil described in v. 8? No Christian is immune to the attacks of the devil. What encouragement do we have in 1 Corinthians 10:13?

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2. What 4 key things are we asked to do in vs. 8 and 9, in order not to fall victim to the devil? What plans does he have for us?

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3. How do we stay alert/sober in our daily Christian walk? See Matthew 26:41.

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4. How do we resist the devil? (See Matthew 4: 4, 7, 10.) What would you say is the place of fellowship in resisting the devil (v. 9)?

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Conclusion

In the wilderness, Christ resisted the devil with scripture and prayer (He had been fasting). We cannot defeat the devil if we do not pray and study God’s word. Even as iron sharpens iron so does fellowship equip us in fighting the devil. (Proverbs 27:17) You can never be on good terms with the devil; he’s out to get you. Be VIGILANT!

Introduction

Nehemiah was a man inspired by God to lead the people of God to restore the broken down walls of Jerusalem. In the process of rebuilding, he encountered great opposition from the enemies of the project. How did he combine “faith” and “works” to accomplish the task? Let us find out.

Memory verse: John 16:33

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” NIV

Study Questions

1. What are the names of those opposed to the rebuilding project (vs. 1, 3 and 7.) How is their reaction described (v.1)?

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2. What was the motive of those opposed to the rebuilding of the walls? (v. 2 -3)? Why will we meet opposition when we seek to fight the good fight?

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3. How did Nehemiah respond to the ridicule in vs. 2 and 3 (v. 4)? How did Nehemiah’s action in v. 4 point to the source of power to overcome opposition? In v. 6 what was the attitude of the people to work? How would this encourage Nehemiah?

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4. Compare Nehemiah's prayer in verse 5 to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:43
– 48.
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5. What should be our attitude to those who hate us and seek to stop us from
serving our God? What should we desire for our enemies as they oppose
us (v. 44)?
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Conclusion

We must be ready to face opposition from those who do not share the same vision with us. This could lead to discouragement. The believer's faith in God and prudent practical actions must always go together – fully relying on the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

The Bible describes the Christian as a light in the world. Light, by its nature, reveals what is hidden or in the dark. Anyone who reveals wrong doing or what is hidden would be hated by those around him. In our study today we shall examine what our Lord teaches about what we need in order to withstand persecution.

Memory Verse 2 Timothy 3: 12.

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” NIV

Study Questions

1. What do those lack who are referred to as the seed that fell on rocky ground (vs. 20-21)? How long do they retain the message? Why?

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2. What do you understand by the phrase “they have no root”? How could this be changed to deep roots?

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3. What would you describe as “persecution and trouble” in the life of a Christian?

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What persecution have you experienced in your life as a Christian? How have you survived persecution?

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4. What would you say is the effect of persecution on a) the individual Christian and b) the Church as a whole? See Acts 8:1, 4-5; 11:19.

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Conclusion

Strength to endure persecution comes from a close fellowship with Christ and other believers. Daily meditation on the word of God provides the reservoir of knowledge and power which enables us to stand firm when we face trials and temptations. Not even persecution nor trouble can separate us from the love of Christ. Romans 8:35

Introduction

The Apostles knew the importance of sound doctrine and the dangers of wrong teaching. After the Day of Pentecost when 3,000 new converts were added to the Church, the new believers “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.” Acts 2:42. Paul warned the Ephesians Elders: “Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.” Acts 20:30

Memory verse Matthew 24:24

“False messiahs and false prophets will come and work great miracles and signs. They will even try to fool God’s chosen ones.” CEV

Study Questions

1. In Ephesians 4:14, how are those likely to be deceived by false/wrong doctrine described?

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2. What is the goal of false teachers? State two ways in which you have gained stability in what you believe.

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3. False teachers are not new. How do they usually operate (v. 1)? In your view, what are some of the false teachings circulating in our day?

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4. What accounts for the success of false teachers (v.2)? How does wrong teaching damage the Church (v. 2)?

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5. What is the end of false teachers (v. 3)? Read Revelation 2:20-23. How can you make sure you are sound in what you believe and teach?

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Conclusion

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!” Galatians 1:8. Paul uses very strong language to show the seriousness of anyone passing on wrong teaching. The Bible is our final authority in what we believe and teach and how we live.

Final 3Q

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH. 1 Timothy 6:12

THIRD QUARTER STUDIES

The Nature of The Good Fight: The Provision

General Introduction to Third Quarter Studies

As Christians we are automatically enlisted to be engaged in warfare. According to 2 Corinthians 10: 3-4, “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”

In the next series of studies we will look at the weapons and the provision that God has made available for our use in this warfare.

Introduction

Soldiers involved in warfare are always armed with a weapon to inflict injury on the enemy when he attacks. Christians also have weapons with which we can wound the enemy. The weapons we have for attack are clearly spelt out in the Bible. Let us find out what God has made available to us.

Memory verse Joshua 1:8

“Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” NIV

Study Questions

1. In verse 17 what weapon of attack is mentioned? Why is it called “the sword of the Spirit”?

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2. How is the word of God described in Hebrews 4:12? Explain each term used to describe the word of God.

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3. How did Jesus overcome his temptations in the wilderness? See Matthew 4:4, 7, 10.

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How can we store Scripture in our minds to use in the hour of trial?

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4. In 2 Tim 3:16-17 what should the Scriptures do in our lives? Give an example of how a passage of Scripture prepared you to serve another person.

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Conclusion

The Word of God, the Bible, is available to every believer to use in fighting the good fight of faith. The word is powerful and effective when the believer has it in his heart and uses it. How much of the word do you have in you?

Introduction

When we believe in and receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we face a powerful enemy whose supreme goal is to defeat Christ's church and to oppose the reign of Christ in the hearts of men. Praise God that Jesus Christ has already won the victory for us. Let us find out what other piece of the armour is available to us while we fight the good fight.

Memory verse Matthew 28:19 -20.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.”

NIV

Study Questions

1. According to v. 15 what part of the armour has been made for the feet of the Christian? Compare with Isaiah 52:7.

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2. Explain v. 15 in your own words. Why do you think this is provision for the feet?

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3. From Matthew 28: 19-20 (our memory verse above) what is the mandate given to us by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?

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4. Read Romans 10: 13-15 and 2 Timothy 4:2-4 and state the highlights in your own words. As Christians what are the ways in which we can fulfil this mandate of telling others about Christ?

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Conclusion

Fighting the good fight of faith requires that we capture territories (the hearts of men) for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The way to advance the Lord's kingdom is by moving out of our comfort zones and into enemy territory with the shoes of the preparation that comes from the gospel of peace.

Introduction

Prayer is the Christian's lifeline to God in the same way as the Bible is the means through which God speaks to the Believer. Moreover prayer unites all believers in the fellowship of lifting our common concerns and tasks as we kneel to pray to God for His Kingdom to be established on earth. The Apostle Paul demonstrated how much he valued the prayers of the Saints in his ministry thereby giving us an example to follow.

Memory Verse 1 Timothy 2:1

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-" NIV

Study Questions

1. In what specific ways did Paul urge the believers to pray (v. 18-19)? Why is it important that we do this?

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2. How does one pray in the spirit? See Romans 8:26,27; Jude 20.

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3. Paul writes about "all kinds of prayers and requests" (v. 18). What are they? Mention the different types of prayer you know.

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Why is it necessary to be alert when praying, and praying on all occasions? See Matthew 26:41 and Luke 18: 1.

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4. Paul asked the believers to be praying for all the saints. NIV (“for the Lord’s people”). Who are included in this list and what should be the essential content of such prayers? Make a list today of 5 Christians to pray for daily.

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Conclusion

Prayer is a very important part of our armour in the good fight. The forces of evil are overcome when believers pray. God delights to hear his children offer prayers of praise to glorify his Name. When we lift up holy hands to praise Him for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, as worthy to receive power and honour and glory, we declare the rule of God over our lives.

Introduction

In the 2006 Hollywood blockbuster, *The 300 Spartans*, the army's success with just 300 soldiers was hinged on team work. Each soldier covered the rear of his comrade all the time in battle. No soldier can fight a battle alone; he always needs the help of other soldiers. The Apostle Paul, after admonishing the people of Ephesus to put on the full armour of God, asked that they pray for him. This emphasizes our need for each other even as we fight the Good Fight. Today we want to dwell on FELLOWSHIP as a tool for fighting.

Memory verse Hebrews 10:25

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” NLT

Study Question

1. What did the Apostle Paul ask the Christians of Ephesus to do for him in vs. 18&19? Why is it important to pray for our fellow soldiers?

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2. What are we to do to each other in Hebrews 10:24 & 25? Name some specific ways we can encourage and motivate each other.

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3. What other things can we do for each other besides prayer and encouraging each other? What is your biggest challenge in doing these things?

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4. Apart from Sunday Service, what other avenues are available in KBCC for fellowshiping? How often do you partake in these activities? List one personal benefit you have derived from fellowship.

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Conclusion

When was the last time you prayed for another believer? When was the last time you got involved in any Church activity beside Sunday Service? “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.” (Proverbs 27:17 NKJV). We do ourselves much disservice when we abandon fellowshiping with other believers. We need each other to succeed in the good fight.

Quote of the week: Team work makes the dream work!

Introduction

Over the last couple of studies, we have looked at the various components of the Armour of God and we have seen the various weapons available to us in fighting the Good Fight. A weapon in the hands of an inexperienced soldier can become a liability not only to him but to the entire army. Thank God He sent His Spirit to teach us how to use the various resources made available to us. He is our biggest partner in fighting the Good Fight. The Holy Spirit is not only our Teacher and Helper (John 15:26), He also provides us with the gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-11) and power (Act 1:8) to fight. Today let's kick start the discussion on the Holy Spirit.

Memory Verse John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” NKJV

Study Questions

1. What do you receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon you (v. 8)?

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2. What does the Holy Spirit compel us to become (v. 8)? How does this relate to Study 2 on evangelism?

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3. What does it mean to have power? Why is it fruitless to seek to be witnesses without power?

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4. It is impossible to live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit. How do we get to know Him more?

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Conclusion

The Holy Spirit is the most important provision God has made available for us in the fight. He has so many attributes that we can harness daily. Getting to know the Holy Spirit takes a lifetime. **START TODAY!**

Prayer: Come Sweet Holy Spirit, fill my heart today, I pray.

Introduction

As humans, we are always anxious about our physical needs and consider them as the most important things in life. This can cripple us in the good fight. Our Lord, in this passage, is teaching His followers to redirect their focus to what God considers as the most important thing man should aspire to be in order to make his life complete. Let us find out.

Memory Verse Philippians 4 v 19

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” KJV

Study Questions

1. In v. 25 what did Christ say to his disciples about food and clothing?

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2. What do you understand by the statement “do not worry”? When I plan for the future, am I worrying?

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3. What reason did Jesus give to show that it is useless to worry?

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4. What does it mean to “seek first his kingdom and righteousness”?

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5. What are the rewards of doing this? What do you think of the Prosperity Gospel in the light of the study today?

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Conclusion

In this life we are always to consider heavenly values in contrast to earthly values. Our first loyalty must be to God and His Kingdom and not to those things that do fade or are transient and temporal. God alone deserves to be our Master and we must serve Him faithfully. . Just as an Army supplies the needs of its fighting men so we in the good fight can expect our Captain to supply our needs. He is faithful and His promises cannot fail.

Final 4Q

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH. 1 Timothy 6:12

FOURTH QUARTER STUDIES

Rewards Of The Good Fight: Our Hope

General Introduction to Forth Quarter Studies

Without hope in this life man is a miserable creature. Hope inspires our endeavour to succeed in our journey – the pilgrimage to our final destination. God in his word has promised to reward every believer not only in this life but also in the life to come. What are the rewards God has for believers as we engage in the good fight?

The fourth quarter studies open us to the reward of the hope of total protection as expressed in Psalm 91- a favourite Psalm of many believers. We have the promise of the peace of God, which the world cannot give and which passes human understanding. These and many other rewards are awaiting our discovery as we tackle the Fourth Quarter Studies.

Introduction

Fighting the good fight of faith is not easy but there are many untold benefits to the Christian engaged in the fight. Some of these benefits or rewards are received right here in this life on earth. Let us look at some of the benefits.

Memory Verse Psalm 91:1-2

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” NIV

Study Questions

1. State the wonderful promises in this passage. How have you experienced any of them in the last week?

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2. What conditions need to be satisfied to be able to enjoy these promises (v. 14)? How can one meet these conditions?

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3. Explain vs. 14 & 15 in your own words. Count the number of times “I will” occurs in these verses. What do we know about the One who makes these promises?

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4. Read the testimony of Paul in Acts 27:22-25 when he faced a shipwreck as he fought the fight of faith. Can you recount examples in your life of God's protection and guidance?

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Conclusion

When we make the choice to fight the good fight of faith, we are on the Lord's side and hence on the winning side. We have the assurance of the Lord of hosts that He is with us in every situation to guide and to protect us. What an awesome privilege, what blessed assurance. Hallelujah!

Introduction

Being in the presence of someone superior to you can be comforting and reassuring in difficult times. Many children, if they should have a nightmare or experience a frightening event, will run to their parents' room because they feel secure and comforted in their presence.

One of man's punishments after the Fall in the Garden of Eden was to leave the presence of God. Today, we will look at the hope we have of God's presence when we fight the good fight

Memory Verse Hebrews 13:5b

"...For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." NKJV

Study Question

1. What did God Promise the Israelites in verse 14? Why did Moses ask for this Presence?

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2. What did God say about Moses in v. 17? What assurance do you have that the Lord knows you (See 2 Timothy 2:19)?

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3. Moses refused to continue the journey without God's presence. What do you think are some of the benefits of God's presence? (Start with the one listed in verse 16b).

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4. What can we do to remain in God’s presence? What have you found useful?

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Conclusion

Nothing in this world can compare to being in God’s presence. God’s presence sets us apart, reassures us and makes our joy complete. It is imperative that we stay in His presence always even as we fight the good fight.

Quote of the Week: “In your presence there is fullness of joy.” (Psalm 16:11)

Introduction

The world is full of conflict and hostility; between nations, between people and in individual hearts. The search for peace has eluded man for a long time. God has promised the believer peace which the world knows nothing about. Let us strive to find it.

Memory verse: John 14:27

“I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.” NLT

Study Questions

1. Christ's promise to his disciples in this passage is twofold; what are they?
Explain the Holy Spirit's role in the life of the believer.

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2. What is the main difference between the peace that Christ promised us and the peace the world gives?

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3. In your own words explain the statement “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (v.27c) What things/situations cause us to fear and be afraid?

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4. How do you ensure that you continually enjoy the peace that is promised
all believers and not be overtaken by trouble and fear? John 14:1,2
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Conclusion

Unlike worldly peace which is defined by the absence of conflict, the peace which Christ gives comes from the inner working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. This results in assurance that God cares for us. There is no need to fear the present or the future.

Introduction

The call to the Christian to fight the good fight of faith and to work for the Lord is not merely a call to duty without any expectations. There is the promise of a reward when the Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, returns.

Memory verse Revelation 22:12

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me to give to everyone according to his work.” NKJV

Study Questions

1. According to verse 11, what is the basis of our faith and the foundation on which we build? List the possible materials or building blocks which one may use to build on this foundation (v. 12).

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2. How will the Christian’s work be tested (v. 13)?

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3. What will be the criteria for receiving a reward (v. 14)? What will happen to the Christian whose works are burnt to ashes (v. 15)? Why should this not cause you to relax?

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4. What can we do to ensure that our work pleases the Lord and passes the test of God's fire so that we can be rewarded? What material are you using to build?

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Conclusion

Our labour in the Lord will never be in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58. The Lord will reward hard work. Therefore let us be steadfast. Let us be enthusiastic about working for the Lord. Let us persevere in fighting the good fight of faith.

Introduction

A crown, according to the English dictionary, is a circular ornamental headdress worn by a monarch as a symbol of authority, usually made of or decorated with precious metals and jewels. It is no surprise therefore that the Apostle Peter described Christians as a Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). There are crowns that await us in heaven. Yes. CROWNS! Did you know that there are five Heavenly Crowns described in the Bible? Today our study is going to be slightly different. We're going to look at these crowns and ask ourselves one question; "Who wears the crown?"

Memory verse Revelation 22:12

"And behold I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me, to give to everyone according to his work." NKJV

Study Questions

1. The Crown of Righteousness- 2 Timothy 4:8. Who wears the crown?

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2. The Crown of Life- Revelation 2:10 and James 1:12. Who wears the crown?

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3. The Crown of Glory- 1Peter 5:2-4. Who wears the crown?

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4. The Crown of Rejoicing- 1 Thessalonians 2:19. Who wears the crown?

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5. The Incorruptible Crown- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Who wears the crown?

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Conclusion

Is it not amazing that all these crowns await us in heaven? This should surely give us hope to press on and fight the good fight of faith. There are people who would have more than one crown in heaven. Which is/are your crowns?

Quote of the week:

“Fight the good fight with all thy might,
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right!”

Introduction

The hope of every Christian, after he has ended his pilgrimage on earth, is to be in the presence of God and to worship him forever. This hope is the believer's motivation for persevering in the face of trials and persecutions. In this study a window is opened to us to see a picture of the Throne Room of God. Let us explore and discover how we shall live in His presence.

Memory verse 1 Corinthians 15: 51, 52

“Listen, I tell you a mystery; We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” NIV

Study Questions

1. How is the multitude before the throne of God described and where did they come from (v. 9)? How should this affect your prayers and action towards world evangelisation?

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2. How did they affirm what qualifies them to be in the presence of God (vs 10 and 14)?

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3. What can we learn about the song of worship of the living creatures around the throne (v. 12)? Which attribute of God means a lot to you at this moment?

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4. List the blessings God has prepared for the saints in heaven as in vs. 15
-17?

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5. How do these promises impact us now as we fight the good fight of faith
and maintain our hope of being in his presence one day?

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Conclusion

The promise of being in God's presence as the reward of eternal life started when we first believed and were saved. God put his seal on us (Ephesians 1 v 13 and 14). The fact that we belong to him eternally does not exempt us from going through tribulations and trials in this life. They cannot separate us from the love of God. The guarantee of being in his presence is his work. We are to continue to trust and obey him.

Introduction

Praise is the offering to God of our grateful homage in words or song as an act of worship. There are many passages in the Bible, especially in the Book of Psalms that encourage us to praise the Lord. In this study let us find out about the power in praising our God as we fight the good fight of faith.

Memory verse Psalm 149:6

“May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands.” NIV

Study Questions

1. a) What circumstance did Paul and Silas find themselves in, according to Acts 16:23&24?

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b) Describe the state in which the King and the men of Judah found themselves in 2 Chronicles 20:12?

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2. a) What did Paul and Silas do in their humiliation in prison (Acts 16:25)?

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b) What did the people of Judah do as they faced imminent defeat (2Chronicles 2:18, 21)?

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3. a) What was God’s response to the act of worship by Paul and Silas (Acts 16:26)?

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b) Express in your own words what the Lord did as the people began to sing and praise Him (2Chronicles 20:22&23)?
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4. Read Hebrews 13:15. What are we supposed to do continually?
What should our attitude be to praising God? When is the best time to praise God? How do you praise God? What do you praise God for?
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Conclusion

Praise is a great weapon against the enemy. It is like a double-edged sword in our hands. When we genuinely praise God, we demonstrate to the principalities and powers, the great awesomeness of our God. God, then, arises and fights on our behalf to produce victory. Numbers 10:35.

FINAL CONCLUSION

Some passages of Scripture, including our theme verse for the year, describe the Christian life as a battle. It is a long battle. From the moment you enlist to the time you are called to be with the Lord, you are in service 24/7. There is a beginning; when we enlist in the Lord's army by coming to him as a sinner. The battle calls for loyalty to our Commander, Jesus Christ, and rages till we are called home.

In the First Quarter we looked at What is the Good Fight? Every one Christ calls, he calls into his Army. Saved by grace, we are saved to serve. We are to Proclaim the good news and tell the whole world about the salvation available to all through Christ.

In the Second Quarter we were made aware of some of the obstacles that stand in the way of victory- the enemies within and without.

In the Third Quarter we studied the provision that God has made available for our use in this warfare. God has planned for our victory. He "is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy." Jude 24.

Has God any rewards for believers as we engage in the good fight? Studies in the Fourth Quarter opened our eyes to God's rewards in the present age and after this life.

May each of us, like the Apostle Paul, at the end of our lives, be able to say confidently, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7



Ghana Evangelical Convention

That in all things Christ might have the pre-eminence. Col 1:18b



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