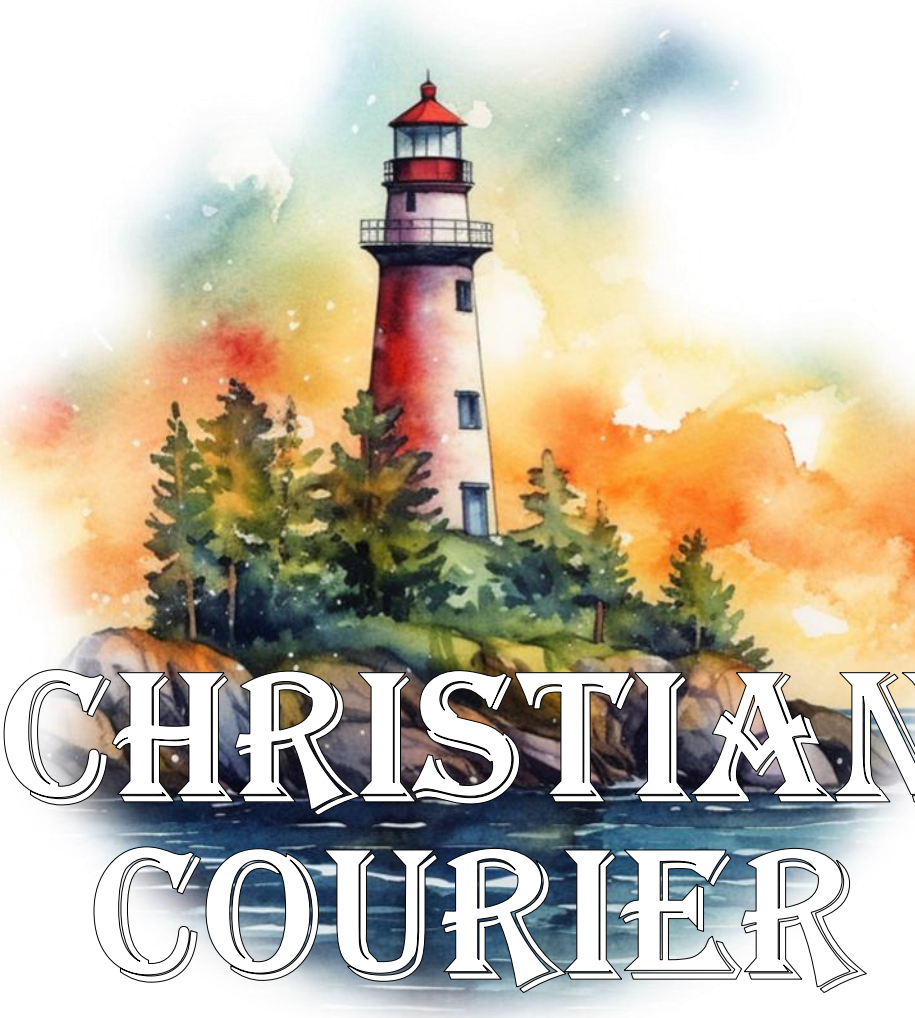
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CHRISTIAN COURIER

Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus!

Pt. 1 of 2 by Bro. Troy Mooney

What does it mean to stand up for Jesus?

It means we will not bow down or give in or be persuaded to do anything contrary to God's will.

Where will Jesus stand up for you? Matthew 10:32-33 ***[32]Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. [33]But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.***

Stand up, Stand up for Jesus is a song that we sing from time to time and I believe that it has strong message that we can learn from. Paul tells us in,

Colossians 3:16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

I am going to show how this song can be used to edify, admonish, and encourage when we pay attention to the words and think about their meaning. When this song was written, it actually had 6 lines, but now it has 4, and these 4 lines are the ones we are going focus on. For our purpose today, we will look at different parts of each line and see what we can learn from them. Let us begin with line 1.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!

Every line starts out this way and this does not simply mean that we stand up when we sing this song. No, it means that we are stand up for the cause of Christ. It means that we are to be actively doing what we can to defend the truth and share it with others, and we certainly cannot do that if we sit around and do nothing. The writer continues and says:

Ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss:

When you study history, you find that when soldiers would go to battle sometimes they would have a banner that represented their nation or their king and a soldier would carry this banner into battle because it meant a lot to those soldiers. If the soldier carrying the banner was killed, another soldier would pick up the banner and carry it in his place because it was that important.

We can relate to this when come to our flag. Most of us are proud to be Americans and we love what our flag represents, and we cringe when someone decided to burn the flag out of protest because we know what our flag represents and that it came at the high cost of solider lives.

As Christians, we need to realize that when we became Christians we signed up in the Lord's army. Every one of us is a Christian soldier. Paul told Timothy,

2 Timothy 2:3-4 [3]**Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.** [4]**No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.**

We are not fighting a physical war, we are fighting a spiritual one, but we must stand up as Christian soldiers and face our enemy. As we battle against the evil way we must lift high the royal banner, which represents what we believe in what we are willing to fight for. The reason, it must not suffer loss is because every Christian solider looks to the royal banner that represents the righteous way and the hope of eternal salvation.

So, in a spiritual sense, if one soldier drops that royal banner, then another needs to pick it up and keep it high. The writer continues to say:

From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army shall He lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord in deed

Jesus is the head of the church, and He knows how to help in our time of need. He has given us all the tools we need to win against our enemies because He has given us the power of His blood and the sword of the spirit, which is God's truth. As Paul says,

2 Timothy 3:16-17 **[16]All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17]That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

Romans 1:16 **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

Whenever we resist the devil in the faith, he must flee according James 4:7. We have an advantage over the devil because we know his tactics and we can be prepared for them when we use the Word of God effectively.

When Christ comes again, the final enemy that will be vanquished is death itself.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 **[25]For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. [26]The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**

Christ has shown us that He has power over death, and we are promised that we will be raised from the dead as well, which is why Paul says:

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 **[54]So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. [55]O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**

A11 this will be possible because Christ is Lord indeed. Next, we will look at the 2nd One in its entirety.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus!
The trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict
In this His glorious day;
Ye that are men now serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger,
And strength to strength oppose.

When you look at some of the battles of old it was not uncommon for them to commence their attack when the trumpet was sounded. Before radio and or wireless communication this was the best way for the soldiers to know that it was time for them to charge against their enemy.

As soldiers of Christ, we have been called to duty. We must obey the trumpet call of God's truth. As soldiers, we must follow the commands of our leadership, which is found within the Word of God.

Just as soldier in an earthly army will obey the commands of his leader and not question the orders given to him, we must not question or rebel against the orders give to us by our commander in chief Jesus Christ. We must learn to respect the chain of command, and realize that God has all the wisdom and answers. We must learn to trust in God and rely on His Wisdom, otherwise we may lose the battle against our enemy.

Our attitude should be the same as Peter and Johns who were told not to speak about Jesus anymore by the opposing Jews of their day, but they said,

Acts 4:19-20 [19]**But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.** [20]**For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**

While man can kill us physically or persecute us, they cannot touch our soul because it belongs to God. So, don't fear man, fear God who can destroy both the body and the soul. No mater how many foes we may face, we must stand up and serve God knowing that we are pleasing Him and glorifying His name on the earth.

Even when you feel that that your back is against the wall and your life is in danger, as the writer of this song taught, let your courage increase and use all your strength to oppose the strength of your enemy. As Paul clearly stated:

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 [16]**For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.** [17]**For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;** [18]**While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

-Concluded next month

July 6-14, 2024

Church of Christ Family Camp

Big Spruce Campground, 24862 Ute Trail Rd, Cedaredge, CO 81413

For More Information

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1-509-969-6881
Visit us on Facebook:
Church of Christ Family Camp

Join us for family fun and fellowship! There will be church services, bible studies, singings, field trips, a fundraising auction and more!

News from Abroad

Hello brethren,

This is from Katoro -Geita church of Christ. We hope that everyone is doing well and healthy. We thank our Lord for the life he has given to us and for this course, we are able to work for him.

On 04/03 - 04/04 we had a meeting, there was good attendance. Many came from denominations that surrounds that part of Runzewe. The first day brother Deus taught on "The Death of Jesus Christ 1 Corinthians 11:24-26", and "Wars and Rumors of War Mark 13: 7-8". There a rose some questions about Christ's death and we answered them precisely.

The following day I spoke on "Understanding Repentance Luke 15: 4-7", and "Some People Never Learn Prov 10:19-21". Understanding repentance, was critical to our members because it is a step they passed which led them and all of us to baptism. It was hard to the visitors (denomination) because they know nothing about repentance.

Most Catholics repent to their leader when they sin or do something wrong. When they heard that they must repent to God and if they are not been baptized they have to repent of their sins to Christ, some of them were confused because they were not taught that way. After the meeting we had a discussion with some of them.

The work of planting seed has been done and we hope to continue doing it whenever we have the opportunity.

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."(1 Cor. 3:6-9).

Thank you all who gave their time and means to make it happen. It was a good meeting and as the seeds have been planted we wait for the harvest when the time comes.

May God bless all of you.
Your brother in Christ - Sadat



Milk of the Word

Spring Has Sprung!

We love spring! Everything is blooming. The days are getting warmer and longer. It is this time of the year that we start to plan our garden. Every spring there are big displays in many stores selling seeds. We like to look through them to see if there's anything we would like to try to grow. When you look at a seed packet, on one side of the packet you have an amazing picture of what the seeds inside will hopefully produce. On the other side of the packet you have a color coded map that tells you where these seeds grow the best. Then there are some instructions that tell you how deep to plant them, how far apart, when the best time of year to plant them is and how long it will take them to produce. The more closely you follow those directions, the more likely that your garden will produce something from the packet. If you don't follow the directions, you can't expect to get the picture on the package. As Christians we have a "packet" to follow to achieve our home in heaven. We must follow God's word. If Noah built the ark using a different kind of wood than God told him to, would it float? The instructions for Noah were not simple and he didn't even know what a boat or rain was. You can read about this in Genesis 6:13-21. What happened to the person moving the ark of the covenant when it was slipping and innocently reached down to steady it when God told him not to touch it? He may have felt like it was the right thing to not let it fall. But God said not to touch it. I Chron. 13:7–10. We have to pay attention to our instructions.

In our daily lives we plant seeds. Some we know about and some we do not realize that we do. Most of the seeds can't be seen and aren't physically put in the ground. They are our actions that those around us see. Are we planting good seeds that will bring people into the church? Or, are we planting seeds that do not help the church to grow? For our type of seeds, there is no packet that you can read to tell you where they will grow best, how long until they produce or when the best time to plant them is. You may plant a positive seed with a friend and it may not begin to grow for years. Or you may plant a negative seed with a coworker by your actions that will make it even harder to produce.

Have you heard the saying, "You'll reap what you sow?" To me, it always seemed to be very negative. It seems to only be brought up when you weren't doing the right thing. While it's true that it works for those behaviors, it also works for the behaviors God wants to reinforce in our lives. Galatians 6:9. If you sow bad, you will reap bad. If you sow good, you will reap good.

As Christians, we need to pay attention to the things we are planting in our lives and that we are planting in the lives of others and into the world. We don't have to worry about timing, location or season. 1 Corinthians 15:58 says, "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*"

The seeds you're sowing today are not in vain. They will produce whether you think it's the right season to plant them or not. Sowing and reaping can only come into effect when seeds are planted. God is the one who makes them grow, not you. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9. Don't hold back in planting where God tells you to or when. Your planting will be productive through Him.

Contributed by
The Robert Fuson Sr Family
Pleasant View - Stilwell, OK

Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?

A common question that has been asked for centuries is "why does God let bad things happen."

I also asked this question of God when my oldest son Jack passed away. He had finally got his life in really good shape with God, had come back to church, there every Sunday, taking the leadership role in the church. Then a flash flood came and swept him off a bridge. In the last 14 years I've thought about this question a lot, and this is the conclusion to my studies.

Many times, in the gospels, Christ answers a question that was asked him by asking another question. Matthew 15:1-3 is a good example of what I'm referring to.

Mat 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

Mat 15:2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

Mat 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

So, when people ask me today why bad things happen to good people; I ask them "why do we blame God for what the devil does."

Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

The devil wants us to blame God for the tragedies in our life so that we will forsake him. There's only two sides in this fight, the side of God and the side of the devil. Which side will you choose?

Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD**.

In Christian Love
Paul Warford

Studying Revelation

A look at Revelation 1:5-6

Bro Paul Warford

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

And from Jesus Christ

And here is the third person of the godhead in this blessing, Jesus Christ himself. God the father and the Holy Spirit were mentioned in this blessing in the preceding verse.

***who is* the faithful witness**

Through Jesus entire life he was faithful and obedient to God the father and mentioned always doing the will of the father and his will being secondary. Even unto the cross of Calvary he was obedient and faithful unto death.

Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

***and* the first begotten of the dead**

One of the things we need to realize up front is Jesus was not the first person resurrected from the dead. But he was in fact the first person to be resurrected to die no more, death would never hold dominion over him again. And through his resurrection we know and understand that we have this same promise that someday we will be resurrected to die no more.

1Co 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

and the prince of the kings of the earth

According to Strong's definition the word Prince here means "the first in rank or power"

Php 2:9-10 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places,*

John wanted the people living then to know and to understand that Jesus Christ was the one that was truly in charge. They were going to face persecutions under Nero and Domitian, but Christ was the true

king of kings.

Unto him that loved us

While an explanation may not be needed, because we all understand the great love that was shown to us on the cross of Calvary, I do want to put into your mind something that took me a long time to understand.

While I always understood the sacrifice that Jesus made for me, I failed realize that there were two sacrifices made that day. One as a savior giving his life for the sins of the world and one as a father who had to turn away from the cries of his child, so he could be murdered. Two acts of love that day. While this statement is a direct reference to Jesus and his sacrifice, the love part of it could also be applied to God the father.

and washed us from our sins in his own blood

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

When Jesus died on the cross, he prepared a road for the salvation of man from their sins which brings the wrath of God upon them. He gave them the ability to have their sins removed if they would be faithful to the gospel call and like Ananias told Saul “arise be baptized and wash away thy sins.” Acts 22:16

Rev 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father

When it talks about making us kings, most commentators feel that it's talking about making us a Kingdom, a collective a group of individuals made into Kingdom. When talking about priests they believe it's talking about the individuals that worship and serve God inside of this Kingdom. We know that several places in the Bible we are called “a holy priesthood” or “a royal priesthood” so God has elevated us to a place that we were not at before; a place with a whole lot more glory and honor than we've ever had or ever deserve.

to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Because of all the things that were listed that we just studied, the love that he gave us, the washing of our sins away in his blood because of his death, and the elevated status that we now have undeservingly, we should always give him the glory and dominion for these blessings forever and ever. Till the end of time.

Bro. Paul Warford

Voices from the Past

Gospel News Courier, September 1964

IN MEMORIAM

SISTER ALLIE BELL JONES, 78, was born February 4, 1886 at Waxahachie, Texas, departed this life July 22, 1964 at Delta, Colorado. Her body was transported to Yuma, Ariz. and interment was in the Yuma Memorial Park, July 27. Her body was laid to rest by the side of her husband, the late Bro. Bob Jones, who preceded her in death June 17, 1945.

Funeral services were held in the chapel of the Johnson Mortuary, in Yuma, with Bro. W. A. Nelson of the Somerton, Arizona Church of Christ conducting the services.

Pallbearers were, Brothers Robert Morris, Jack Rennick, Ralph Jones, and Donny Long, all of the Somerton Church of Christ, and Bro. Horace Orendorff of the Yuma Church of Christ.

Survivors include 2 sons, Johnnie Burnett, Riverside, California, Joe Jones, Whittier, California; 2 daughters, Sister Verlie Baldwin, Delta, Colorado, Sister Movelle Wilkerson, Cedaredge, Colorado; one brother, Joseph L. Curley, St. Petersburg, Florida; 2 sisters, Dixie Ennis, Anaheim, California, Eula Anderson, Paris, Texas; 14 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren.

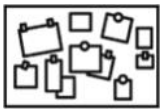
May the Lord bless and comfort her loved ones left behind, and may we all be comforted in the promises of our Saviour and the knowledge of his resurrection.



Thought for the Month

Trusting in The Lord is difficult at times. Don't we try to steer our lives like the conductor of an orchestra? We can put forth all the necessary effort into making sure all is well and maintained, and then watch it all come crashing down again. Sometimes without the means to put it back together. But when we finally "Let go and let God", truly surrendering to his will, and stop trying to fix it ourselves; isn't that when it all straightens up and smooths out? Wishing you all a great month!

Bro. Jesse Warford



Bulletin Board

Those in need of our prayers

Mick Boen	Denton, TX	Fighting Cancer
Bro. Joseph	Katesh, Africa	Malaria & U.T.I.
Jon Rawlins	Ottawa, Canada	Needs heart transplant
John Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Diabetes, heart issues
Wilkister Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Malaria
Agrippina Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Severe back problems
Linda Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Vicki Camp Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Rylan Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Carney Complex/nerve tumors
Beason Family	Broken Bow, OK	Unexpected loss of wife/mother
Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Fighting cancer
Billy Martin	Citrus City, AZ	Fighting cancer
Pauline Holloway	Gleed, WA	Uterine & cervical cancer
Ilene Thrush	Gleed, WA	Several strokes & heart issues
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, 2 angioplasties
Mariela Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, thyroid issues
Jessica Chastain	Stilwell, OK	Health issues
Reba Morris	Stilwell, OK	Lupus, recent loss of husband
Retha Morris	Stilwell, OK	Parkinson's disease
Darletta Spencer	Stilwell, OK	Cancer
Fred Cummings	Yuma, AZ	Congestive heart failure

Gospel Meetings

Big Spruce Camp	Cedaredge, CO	Jul 6-14 '24	Assorted

Congregation of the Month



First, study the chapters to see what they have in common. **_Then,_** go find the answers!

Down:
1. Acts 12
2. 2 Kings 17
4. Acts 26
6. Matthew 4
7. 2 Kings 25
11. 2 Chronicles 16
13. Acts 5
14. Jeremiah 52
15. 1 Kings 22
18. Jeremiah 32

Across:
3. 1 Peter 3
5. Matthew 27
8. Matthew 18
9. Revelation 20
10. Genesis 40
12. Acts 16
16. Jeremiah 32
17. Genesis 39
19. Judges 16

