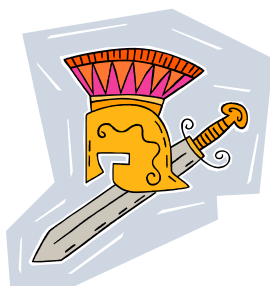


Be Strong in the Lord
Put on the Whole
Armor of God
Part 7

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT



OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition

2-17-08



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. ***For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.***

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. ***For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*** (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

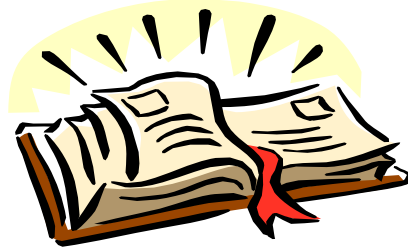
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! ***But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*** (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

WHY DID GOD GIVE US THE BIBLE?



Read these next few scriptures to see if you can answer that question.

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3 KJB

"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 3:16-17KJB

"Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teach-

ers: for thy testimonies (God's Word) *are* my meditation.

I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts (God's Words).

I have refrained my feet from every evil way,
that I might keep thy word." Psalm 119:98-101KJB

"Through thy precepts (God's Words) I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:104-105KJB

"See then that ye walk circumspectly (careful how you think, speak, act), not as fools, but as wise,
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding
what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:17 KJB

Jesus tells us CLEARLY why God gave us His Word in Matthew 4:4KJB

"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."



We are to LIVE BY EVERY WORD THAT GOD HAS SPOKEN! And EVERY WORD that God has SPOKEN to man is now preserved entirely in only ONE PLACE - right there in our KING JAMES BI-

BLE OF 1611! We sure hope that YOU have one!

There are MANY more scriptures that tell us WHY God gave us His written Word, the Bible. These are only a few. The Bible is God's WRITTEN LETTER OF LOVE to man! God sent us His great letter of love so we could get to KNOW HIM! God ALREADY knows YOU & ME! He knows ALL about us - even our entire future! And by the way, even though He ALREADY KNOWS all about us, He STILL LOVES US! Psa 139 I, for one, am sure GLAD OF THAT! But now God wants you & I to get to know HIM - how much He LOVES US & all the reasons why we can TRUST HIM FOR EVERYTHING! So He sent us JESUS & HIS WORD to tell us all He wants us to know about Himself.

He sent us His Word to tell us that Jesus is our ONLY WAY to God & heaven.



"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way,
the truth, and the life: no man
cometh unto the Father, but by me."
John 14:6KJB

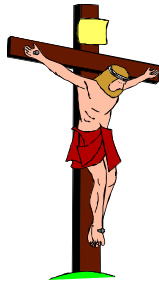
God gave us the bible so He could TEACH us about Himself & His ways (Isaiah 55:6-10KJB). God gave us the bible so that He could INSTRUCT US in how to live as God's children should live & CORRECT US when we need correcting. God gave us the bible so that we could BE WISE & understand what GOD'S WILL for our lives is. Jer 29:11, Phil 2:12-16 God gave us the bible so that we could be WISE & recognize EVIL & WRONG.!

God gave us the bible so that we could be WISE & make GOOD decisions every day - decisions that GOD wants us to make!

God gave us His Word so we could know that He is the SUPREME RULER of this entire universe! Read Isaiah

chapters 40-48! That FACT is IMPORTANT to KNOW!

God gave us His Word so that we would know that there is a BATTLE going on in this universe - an INVISIBLE BATTLE! It is a battle between God & Satan over the souls of men! God's purpose is to SAVE MEN & help them KNOW HIM & HIS GREAT LOVE.



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16-17KJB

Also read 1Timothy 2:3-6KJB

See! God states His purposes for man CLEARLY in His WORD! But God's enemy, Satan, goes around trying to STOP people from accepting Jesus as their Savior because once a person believes what God's Word says about Jesus & accepts Jesus as his or her Savior, that person belongs to God FOREVER! He or she is God CHILD FOREVER & God loves them just the way they are! Satan can NEVER take that person away from God! Satan HATES THAT! So then Satan fights to STOP God's children from reading their bibles, going to church & obeying God everyday. Satan knows that if believers read God's Word, believe it & obey it, they will get to know God really well. They'll start to trust God more & more. They'll start to become more like Jesus Christ! And Satan HATES JESUS CHRIST!

Satan also knows that if believers READ THEIR BIBLES, they will get to know all his schemes to get them to obey him instead of obeying God! So you see, there is DEFINITELY a real war going on in the invisible realm of this universe! In the end, the SUPREME RULER of this entire universe - Jesus Christ - will be the WINNER! Phil 2:5-11

So while this battle is raging during history, we sure should obey God!

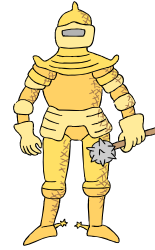
And God says that we should live EVERY DAY by HIS WORD! As we will see, His WORD is POWERFUL!

When we learn it well & obey it,
it is like

ARMOR

for our souls!

It PROTECTS us from being influenced by all the Satan's WRONG ideas & values that are in our world today! Wrong ideas about God & eternity! Wrong ideas about ourselves & how we should live & what life is really all about!



So far in our last 6 lessons on this topic, we have learned about the

BELT OF TRUTH
BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
GOSPEL SHOES
SHIELD OF FAITH
THE HELMET OF SALVATION

Please read that list again. Do you know what all these pieces of armor have in common? They are ALL pieces of armor that PROTECT us from harm! When a soldier in battle wore all those pieces of armor & held up the shield in front of them, they could STAND firm against the enemy. Those pieces of armor were excellent DEFENSE equipment against the forward marching enemy! They were very useful in keeping the soldier from being injured in the bat-

tle. They were helpful in RESISTING the enemy!
What is DEFENSE? Defense is any sort of equipment or things we do to RESIST attack!



For instance, in football, each team has certain equipment & play strategies that help them DEFEND the player who is carrying the ball. Each team wants to STOP the other team from getting that ball to the touchdown line! So all this DEFENSE equipment & these strategies help each team to RESIST the other team's attacks to try to stop them from moving forward with the ball & to try to take the ball from them.

But DEFENSE is not the only part of football. If it were, then neither team would be able to move forward to score the winning goal. They'd be spending all their time DEFENDING the ball instead of also trying to get that ball over the goal line!

And so there is another part of the team's strategy called OFFENSE. Offense strategies & plays help the team members move FORWARD to get that football over the goal line! To WIN THE game! And in that way, football is like a battle! The



team who uses their defense & offense in the best ways, wins the game! It takes LOTS OF DAILY PRACTICE to be able to use all that equipment & all those strategies in just the right way to be able to WIN!

Well, in military battles, armies also have equipment & strategies for both DEFENSE & OF-

FENSE! There is certain gear or equipment that soldiers use to DEFEND & PROTECT themselves - like helmets & boots & belts & masks. In the days when the bible was written, soldiers used all the pieces of armor that we have learned about so far. They were for PROTECTION & to give the soldiers the ability to STAND FIRM & NOT RETREAT from the enemy!

But soldiers also want to WIN the battle because the safety & lives of many people depend upon their winning! And so, soldiers also have certain WEAPONS that they use for OFFENSE! Weapons that are used to WIN THE VICTORY! And soldiers must practice DAILY to be able to use both defense & offense successfully! In the days when the apostle Paul wrote, one of the most important weapons that soldiers used was their

SWORD!



Well, God who is the RULER of the universe & BEST military Captain & Leader, not only gives His children the best DEFENSE pieces of armor for protection against Satan's schemes so they can RESIST him, God has also given all His children the best OFFENSE pieces of equipment to be able to WIN every time Satan attacks! Here is one of them:

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Ephesians 6:17KJB

See you next week to learn about the
SWORD OF THE SPIRIT!

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

Directions

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.



From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.

Grace Christian Fellowship

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