

October 31, 2021AM – Kevin Olivier
Ephesians 6:10-20 – “Make a Stand”

- A. National Geographic says the Celts of Ireland burned bonfires on October 31st to drive away the spirits of the dead. Other sources say human sacrifice was involved.
- B. All Saints’ Day or All Hallows’ Day is celebrated by the Roman Catholics & some Protestants on November 1st. It was initially a day set aside to remember the dead, especially the saints & martyrs.
- C. According to Philip Melanchthon, October 31st, 1517 was the day Martin Luther nailed his *95 Theses* on the door of the All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg, Germany.¹
- D. There are many blessings of the Reformation that we should remember:
 - Sola Scriptura Sola Fide
 - Solus Christus Soli Deo Gloria
 - Sola Gratia

God calls you to make a stand for your faith.	I. YOU ARE AT WAR II. YOU MUST BE EQUIPPED III. GOD MAKES YOU ABLE
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I. **YOU ARE AT WAR (v11-12)**

- A. You have heard it said that we are at war with the world, the flesh, & the devil.
 - 1. “The world” is the influence of secular culture; however, the devil has his hand in influencing that.
 - a. When a young person wants to please godless friends at school more than Christian parents, the evil one surely has his hands in the matter.
 - Teenagers don’t get their lives wrecked by drugs merely because of worldly influence.
 - b. Adults can get so obsessed with keeping-up with the Jones’ that they place money & work as supreme in their life so that they don’t want to take time to worship the Lord of glory.
 - Worldly idolatry doesn’t happen except by the wicked deception of the father of lies.
 - 2. “The flesh” can be described as sinful desires such as lust.
 - a. A man or woman does not leave their spouse to commit adultery except by wicked, demonic influence.
 - b. If you struggles with sins of the flesh, remember **(v12)** “**For our struggle is not against flesh & blood,...**” That speaks to your own flesh but your fight with unbelievers in this world.
- B. Those who deny God as the Creator & adopt a secular worldview are deceived by him.
 - 1. Such persons deny that the devil & his demons exist as well.
 - a. Forces of evil can still have their influence upon you whether you believe they exist or not;
 - b. During the Vietnam War, the Viet Cong preferred our GI’s to be deceived & think they were not present.
 - 2. I am certain that the devil & his demons spend a whole lot of time behind the scenes of godless, secular colleges.
- C. What Satan’s influence about in the church?
 - 1. Turn to **1 Tim 4:1-4.**
 - 2. **1 Tim 2:5** “**there is 1 God, & 1 mediator also between God & men, *the* man Christ Jesus”**

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformation_Day

II. YOU MUST BE EQUIPPED (vv10-11a) “Finally, be strong in the Lord & in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”

A. No warrior goes into battle unless he is equipped.

B. (v14) “Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth,…”

1. The ultimate truth is the Word of God.

2. Ps 119 “The sum of Your word is truth & every 1 of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting”^{v160}

C. (v14) “...put on the breastplate of righteousness”

1. The ultimate righteousness that we need is that of Christ Himself.

2. 2 Tim 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

D. (v15) “having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”

1. Understanding the gospel is absolutely foundational to your life.

2. If you get this wrong, it is like trying to go into combat with both feet severely injured.

E. (v16) “taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”

1. By faith we believe & embrace Jesus Christ as He is offered to us in the gospel.

2. Eph 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; & that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast”

F. (v17) “And take the helmet of salvation,…”

1. If you always doubting your salvation, you will not be able to fight this war as you ought.

2. It is impossible to live with a holy abandon without assurance.

G. (v17) “...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”

1. Just as a sword is essential to deflect blows as defense & essential to attach with, the Word of God is absolutely essential for defense & offense.

2. We cannot make a good defense for what believe unless we know Scripture.

3. The attacking component of our combat is best described in 2 Cor 10:3-5. Turn there.

III. GOD MAKES YOU ABLE (vv18-20)

A. Verse 18 begins with a call for each of us—geared-up in the armor of God— to “**be on the alert with all perseverance & petition for all the saints**”

1. If you love your family in Christ, please pray for them.

2. This is a call to pray with alertness rather than some prayer when half-asleep.

3. It is also a call to pray with perseverance.

a. We are to pray with diligence without giving up.

b. It may bother an earthly parent if you keep asking for something over and over again, yet God says we ought to pray like that persistent widow before the judge who keeps refusing to listen to her (**Luke 18:1-8**).

B. Those called to preach or proclaim the gospel need your prayers!

C. It is not just pastors, missionaries, & seminary professors who are called to make a stand for Christ.

1. Each of us are called to “**speak boldly**” about our blessed Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

2. → Mat 10:28-39

Review, further application, & conclusion: