

The Other Side

December 2009

Friends,

We are sure you have all noticed the number of attacks on Christianity and Christians have been increasing in both number and intensity. The HBO and Home Depot incidents that were recently talked about in the foundations class are good examples. We are sure many of you are aware of others, as there are many. It seems it is becoming open season on Christianity and Christians. While being persecuted for belief in Jesus Christ is and has long been common in other parts of the world, it is something new for American Christians.

As Elders of this Church we feel a responsibility to warn you so that you can prepare for this spiritual warfare. How can you prepare? Part of the answer can be found in Ephesians 6: 10-18

10. Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15. and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Did you catch that phrase in verse 13 "*when the day of evil comes*"? As Elders we are warning you that day is beginning for American Christians. The battle is intensifying and at some point you will have to choose sides. In Mathew 12:30 Jesus talks about spiritual warfare and he says, "*He who is not with me is against me*". Neutrality or sitting on the sidelines will not be an option in this war. Whose side will you choose? Are you ready to do battle?

We don't want to take anything away from Jeff's sermons. They are very good so please don't misinterpret this, but an hour on Sunday mornings is not enough preparation for this battle. It is going to be a long and hard fought war. Satan is a cunning and wary adversary. We strongly encourage each of you to get involved in Bible study during the week not just on Sundays. We think it will take both personal studies and studies as part of a group to survive this war. We currently have Sunday morning, Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening group studies. We will gladly start more if you will attend. We just can't stress enough how important we believe this is.

Hamilton Church of Christ Elders
Keith Blair
Rick Freed
Lamar Dick
Jeff Alexander

**Christmas Eve Service
10:00pm**

Prayer List

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| Heather Wogoman | Vivian Hulbert | Luella Clark |
| Greg Pierce | Charlie Presley | Louiseen Ingledue |
| Bob Slavin | Eleanor Chevillot | Dale Perkins |
| Bob Curtis | Charlene Badman | Norma Wood |
| Evelyn Pollock | Steve Sewell | Carl Ward |
| Bill Lee | Glenna Aldrich | Nancy Schannen |
| Patty Bireley | | Lois Bonecutter |