PREPARE FOR BATTLE
JOSHUA 3:1-17
By Pastor Gary G. Dull

INTRO: Down through the years, our church has been through some relatively large battles as we have stood for or against various situations and trends in society but the one we have now been thrust into may be the biggest up to this point in time. IT IS TRULY A DAVID AND GOLIATH SITUATION! The fact that Mayor Bill Welch of State College is going to preside over a same sex ceremony for 6 gay and lesbian couples at the Hub on the campus of The Penn State University is very large, and yet, we are at the very center of the battle and have a responsibility to STAND UP FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF THE WORD OF GOD! Only God Himself knows the effect of this battle we face, but WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD. SO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, LET US PREPARE!

BACKGROUND OF TEXT: Joshua was preparing the Children of Israel for the crossing of the Jordan River and ultimately to overtake the Land of Canaan. This should have been done 40 years earlier, but then, under Moses, the Israelites backed down and thus wandered in the wilderness for nearly two generations. THAT, ITSELF IS A LESSON FOR NOT BEING WILLING TO FIGHT THE BATTLES GOD SENDS OUR WAY…WHEN A PERSON OR A MINISTRY SAYS “NO” TO GOD’S WILL, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PRICE TO BE PAID. AS JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES PREPARED TO CROSS THE JORDAN RIVER AND CONQUER THE PROMISED LAND, WE MUST PREPARE FOR BATTLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL WHO DESIRE SINFUL UNIONS BETWEEN SAME-SEX INDIVIDUALS. (Read the Text)

I. THE BATTLE DEFINED

TO STAND FIRM FOR FAMILY VALUES AS AMBASSADORS AND SOLDIERS OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE BASIS OF THE BIBLICAL, TRADITIONAL, NATURAL AND EMOTIONAL POINT OF VIEW IN OPPOSITION TO HOMOSEXUAL UNIONS OF ANY SORT, WHICH THREATEN THE VERY CORE OF HUMAN SOCIETY.

- THE BIBLICAL POINT OF VIEW: The family is based divinely on one man and one woman being brought together one union to produce children.
- THE TRADITIONAL POINT OF VIEW: The family is based culturally on one man and one woman to support society.
- THE NATURAL POINT OF VIEW: The body is designed for the union of a man and a woman uniquely.
- THE EMOTIONAL POINT OF VIEW: The family consisting of a man and a woman is much more emotionally stable than same-sex families.

  A. The Design of God – Genesis 2:18-25
  B. The Defiance of Mankind – Romans 1:26-32

ILLUSTRATION: THE WORDS OF JIMMY CARTER
APPLICATION: THE BATTLE RAGES…ARE WE READY?
II. THE BATTLE DEvised
IT IS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE THAT WE AS INDIVIDUALS OF THIS CONGREGATION SPIRITUALLY PREPARE FOR THE BATTLE. WE MUST TAKE HEED TO JOSHUA’S WORDS IN 3:5 WHEN HE SAID, “SANCTIFY YOURSELVES: FOR TOMORROW THE LORD WILL DO WONDERS AMONG YOU.”

HOW IS THIS “SANCTIFICATION” TO TAKE PLACE?
A. Be Sure of Your Spiritual Salvation.
B. Be Sure of Your Spiritual Separation from Sin.
C. Be Sure of Your Spiritual Separation unto God.
D. Be Sure of Your Spiritual Struggle with Satan.
E. Be Sure of Your Spiritual Strength with God.

ILLUSTRATION: 2 TIMOTHY 2:4
APPLICATION: WE ALL HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO BE STRONG IN THE LORD AT THIS POINT LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

III. THE BATTLE DEFENDED
AS INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS, AND AS A LOCAL CHURCH WHICH IS THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO STAND UP FOR BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES IN A CLEAR AND PRECISE MANNER….EVEN IF OTHERS DO NOT!
A. The Battle is Defended through the Good Fight of Faith – 1 Timothy 6:12.
B. The Battle is Defended through the Contention For the Faith – Jude 3
C. The Battle is Defended through the Power of the Truth – 1 Timothy 3:15

ILLUSTRATION: THE WORD ABOUT OTHER CHURCHES
APPLICATION: WE HAVE A CHARGE TO KEEP!

LESSON: GOD HAS GIVEN US A CHARGE. HE WILL GIVE US THE STRENGTH. WE MUST BE WILLING TO FOLLOW HIM IN TRUE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE!