

"STAND FAST IN THE LORD"

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-4

TEXT: VERSE 1.

INTRO: Dr. John MacArthur said: *"THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IS UNDER ATTACK, JUST AS JESUS PREDICTED IT WOULD BE. IN JOHN 16:33 HE WARNED, 'IN THE WORLD YE SHALL HAVE TRIBULATION: BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.' PAUL ECHOED THE LORD'S WARNING IN ACTS 14:22 WHEN HE SAID 'THROUGH TRIBULATION WE MUST ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.', AND WROTE TO TIMOTHY, IN 2 TIMOTHY 3:12, 'YEA, AND ALL THAT WILL LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION.' NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE CHURCH HAS FACED PERSECUTION FROM ITS INCEPTION."*

THE ATTACK ON THE CHURCH IS THREE-FOLD

- 1) **The World:** The evil Satanic system that is diametrically opposed to God that provides sources of temptation through allurements and enticements from which the Christian is to flee - Note: James 4:4; 1 John 2:16.
- 2) **The Flesh:** The fallen unredeemed humanness that is vulnerable to sin that each Christian faces daily - Note: Matthew 26:41; Romans 7:24
- 3) **The Devil:** The ultimate enemy of God who energizes the world and the flesh in a very aggressive fashion - Note: Matthew 4:1; 1 Peter 5:8

THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL EACH CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPIRITUAL INSTABILITY OF BELIEVERS WHICH IS A *VERY SERIOUS CONDITION THAT LEADS TO SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS, FRUITLESSNESS AND SIN. THIS ATTACK IS UPON EVERY CHRISTIAN EVERY DAY WHICH IS WHY PAUL TELLS US IN PHILIPPIANS 4:1 TO "STAND FAST IN THE LORD!"* STANDING FAST IN THE LORD IS A RUNNING THEME IN THE SCRIPTURE FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER:

- Acts 11:23 - Peter to Antioch - "Cleave to the Lord."
- Acts 14:22 - Paul to Believers - "Continue in the Faith."
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 - Paul to Corinthians - "Be Steadfast."
- Galatians 5:1 - Paul to Galatians - "Stand Fast."
- Ephesians 6:11,13,14 - Paul to Ephesians - "Stand."
- Colossians 2:5 - Paul to Colossians - "Be Steadfast."
- 1 Thessalonians 3:8 - Paul to Thessalonians - "Stand Fast."
- 2 Peter 3:16,17 - Peter to Believers - "Beware..lest you fall from your own Steadfastness."

OBSERVATIONS TO CONSIDER

- Spiritual Instability leads to Spiritual Failure.
- Spiritually Instable Christians are crushed by their trials.
- Spiritual Instability is Satan's Goal for every Believer and every Church..

A LOOK AT PHILIPPIANS 4:1

NOTE: Paul's admonition to the Philippians to "STAND FAST IN THE LORD" is motivated by his high respect for them as he refers to them as **BRETHREN, DEARLY BELOVED, LONGED FOR, JOY AND CROWN.** He loved them and wanted them to know that he had their best spiritual condition in mind.

NOTE: The Phrase "STAND FAST" is an **IMPERATIVE.** The Greek word "STAY-KO" is a military term used to describe a soldier standing at his post.

I. THE FOUNDATION OF STANDING FAST

(The Basis)

- A. The Certainty of Salvation
- B. The Certainty of Sanctification

II. THE FOCUS OF STANDING FAST

(The Reason)

- A. To Obey Scripture
- B. To Bear Fruit

- C. To Portray Christ
- D. To Encourage Others
- E. To Honor God

III. THE FORM OF STANDING FAST

(The Process)

NOTE: 2 Timothy 2:3,4; Ephesians 6:10-17

- A. The Mental Form - Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:8
- B. The Physical Form - Psalm 1:1; 2 Timothy 2:22a
- C. The Spiritual Form - Hebrews 10:19-23
- D. The Ecclesiastical Form - Hebrews 10:24,25

APPLICATION/LESSON

- 1) The World, the Flesh and the Devil are our ENEMIES right now!
- 2) The Victory over the World, the Flesh and the Devil is a growing relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Follow the Form of Standing Fast daily so that your relationship with Christ will be strong and victorious.