**“Stand Up For Jesus”**

Prepared by Nathan Morrison for Sunday December 29th, 2019

Text: Eph. 6:10-14

Intro

1. Last words can often affect more people and lives than those in the lifetime of the speaker.
   1. On the cross, Jesus said, **“It is finished”** before He died – *Jn. 19:30*
      * + 1. Those words were not only recorded and preserved in written form but they echo throughout time that God’s eternal purpose of providing man with the means of salvation was accomplished for all time! *(Heb. 7:27; 9:12; 10:10)*
   2. Before dying, Alexander the Great was asked who would succeed him, to which he responded, **“To the strongest!”**
      1. His four generals then reshaped the known world in their quest for dominance and to be “the strongest,” just as God foretold through Daniel *(Dan. 8).*
   3. In modern times, on 09/11/01 aboard Flight 93 when the intent of the hijackers became known, Todd Beamer ended his cell phone call with his wife saying, **“Are you guys ready? Let’s roll!”**
      1. He and others rushed the cockpit to retake the plane. The plane crashed in Shanksville, PA, killing all on board, but was not used as a weapon. “Let’s roll!” was used as a rallying cry and was seen on banners across the country and in military recruiting centers!
2. The hymn “Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus” was inspired by the last words of Dudley Tyng.
   1. Dudley Tyng (1829-1858) was an Episcopalian minister who vehemently opposed slavery and denounced the Fugitive Slave Act (1850) from the pulpit, which caused his dismissal in 1856.
   2. He and his followers left and organized the Church of the Covenant elsewhere in Philadelphia, PA. He gave daily lectures at the local YMCA.
   3. At one such lecture on Mar. 30, 1858 he raised his right hand and said, “I must tell my Master’s errand, and I would rather that this right arm were amputated at the trunk than that I should come short of my duty to you in delivering God’s message.”
   4. George Duffield, Jr. (1818-1888), who was a friend of Dudley was there in attendance.
   5. Two weeks later, Dudley was in his family’s barn watching the corn-thrasher (sheller) and petting a horse. He got too close; his sleeve was caught and his arm was shredded. Infection set in and they had to amputate his arm at the shoulder. He was too weak to survive the surgery, and died 5 days later.
   6. He said to his father, “Stand up for Jesus, father, and tell my brethren of the ministry to stand up for Jesus.”
   7. George Duffield, Jr. (a Presbyterian preacher) was there to hear and see his friend die.
   8. The following Sunday he preached a lesson from Eph. 6:14 and read a poem he wrote inspired by his friend’s last words. It found its way into hymnals shortly after.
3. We will give account to God one day on how we “Stand up for Jesus” in this life!
4. **Stand Firm** 
   1. Stanza 1 reminds us that we are soldiers of the cross.
   2. Eph. 6:10-14
      1. The armor of God is given to help the Saint (Soldier of Christ) “stand firm.”
      2. The saint is to stand against the schemes of the devil!
      3. 6:13: In the moment of “evil” the saint is to be prepared to resist, “having done everything, to stand firm.”
   3. I Cor. 16:13: Just as soldiers must stand their ground in battle, so soldiers of the cross must stand fast in the faith.
   4. I Pet. 3:15: We must press on in the fight until Christ is Lord indeed, that is, sanctified in every heart possible: a task that will never be done until the Lord returns!
      1. Christ *is* “Lord indeed” – *Mt. 28:18; I Tim. 6:15; Rev. 1:5*
      2. We must make Him Lord of our hearts!
      3. Phil. 2:9-11: One day all peoples will bow the knee and confess Christ as Lord!
         * 1. We will give account for how we lived our lives – Rom. 14:11-12 (Mt. 10:32-33)
   5. Saints are to be prepared for battle & “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might!”
5. **Soldier’s Courage**
6. Stanzas 2 & 3 remind the soldier of Christ to wear the armor of God and be of courage!
7. Eph. 6:18: This armor must be put on with prayer because this is God’s provision to help us not be anxious in the fight – Phil. 4:6-7: Be anxious for nothing but pray with thanksgiving to God!
8. II Cor. 10:3-6: We are called to battle!
   1. We cannot trust the arm of flesh because neither the warfare nor the weapons of our warfare are carnal.
   2. Sword of the Spirit – Eph. 6:17
      1. Roman soldiers were deadly with their weapons; their swords were feared.
      2. We are to be trained with our “Sword” – II Tim. 2:15; Heb. 4:12
9. *Eph. 6:10-18:* Therefore, we must put on the armor of God that will enable us to stand firm!
10. “Where duty calls, or danger, be never *wanting* there.”
    1. This doesn’t mean not “wanting” to do our duty, dangerous or not, but that where duty calls, to “be never *lacking* there!”
    2. II Tim. 2:1-3: “Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” *(II Tim. 4:5: Endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill ministry)*
11. Though not a physical battle, we must possess a soldier’s courage to press on till death!
12. **Victor’s Song**
13. Stanzas 4 & 5 teaches us that the soldier who overcomes will gain a crown of life.
14. I Jn. 5:4: God has promised victory to those who overcome by faith.
15. Rev. 2:10: Christ knew the church at Smyrna was suffering and told them it would get worse, but their duty: “Remain faithful until death.”
16. Rev. 21:7: He who overcomes will inherit Heaven!
17. Rev. 22:3-5: Those in Heaven will “reign forever and ever.” The original words to the song say “Shall reign eternally.” In many hymnals the words are changed to “live eternally.”
    1. Saints will live eternally *and* reign eternally, not a millennium doctrine, but Scriptural.
18. *II Tim. 4:6-8*
    1. Paul would make the ultimate sacrifice for His Savior, and he was able to say, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”
    2. He was in essence telling Timothy, “I have done my duty.”
19. The victor’s song will be sung by those who “stand firm” and remain “faithful till death!”

### Conclusion

1. The hymn makes it plain that the Christian’s life is a spiritual fight with evil within and without, and that Jesus Christ is our leader *(All backed by the Scriptures).*
2. To gain the crown of life we must, as the song & Scriptures teach, “Stand Up for Jesus!”
3. “We are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul!” (Heb. 10:39)
4. If not a Christian, you need to be. May the word of God provoke you to repent & be baptized!
5. If a child of God who has erred, repent and ask for forgiveness!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be known ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!