

God's Call To Man Up

I Corinthians 16:13

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

REVIEW

I. THE MEANING

A. Watch

1. Heaven charges us to be awake, be vigilant, watch for enemies, and protect our people.
2. Men guard their houses from ants, termites, mosquitoes, flies, spiders, mice, rats, bats,
3. God says likewise guard your people from spiritual enemies, for dangers are all about us.
4. The Bible repeatedly warns that enemies might secretly steal in and cause damage.
 - a. Jude writes, "There are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." (Jude 1:4)
 - b. Peter writes, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." (II Pet. 2:1)

B. Stand Fast in the Faith

1. A guard is not just to detect enemies but to *stand* against them and refuse them entry.
2. The instruction is to stand *fast*; that is, with no yielding, locked, planted, determined.
3. This standing fast is to be done *in the faith*; that is, in clear knowledge of the Christian faith.

C. Quit Ye Like Men

1. The charge is similar to the one voiced by Joab to his armies, "Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God." (II Sam. 10:12)
2. Act like a man! The implication is that there is a standard of masculinity. The distinguishing factor: how a person handles the Word of God.
3. Weak, vacillating people are spiritual children. People who know the Word and its relevance to issues and act accordingly are men. See I Cor. 14:20, Eph. 4:13-14.

D. Be Strong

1. Real men remember why they are on earth, know what would make them strong and useful, and what would weaken them to be as ineffective children.
2. Key: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." (Eph. 6:10)
3. Come now, as goes the hymn, "Rise up, O men of God! / Have done with lesser things. Give heart and mind and soul and strength / to serve the King of kings."

II. THE APPLICATION

A. Watch

1. We must watch for bad religious ideas. We live in a culture where ...
 - a. A pastor writes a purpose-driven book that conservatives say presents a false gospel and lacks due instruction on sin, repentance, judgment, or hell, yet it sells 60 million copies.
 - b. Prominent Christians yoke with a radio talk show host who affiliates with erroneous teachings on Christ, the Holy Spirit, the way of salvation, hell, and revelation.
 - c. At the funeral of a world-renown athlete who promoted a religion with a false gospel of works, Christians join in prayer with various ministers who are enemies of the cross.

B. Stand Fast in the Faith

1. We must warn our people of error – “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” (Eph. 5:11)
2. We must yoke with no error – “Receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.” (II John 1:9-11)

C. Man Up

1. We must know what are the issues in our world. Examples:
 - a. Our taxes go to support the nation's largest abortion provider, which also sells body parts.
 - b. Our President routinely ignores laws of our land which he is sworn to uphold.
 - c. One candidate for President announced plans to dissolve our borders in her first 100 days.
 - d. Our President is finding ways to admit Syrian Muslims at the reported rate of 350/week.
 - e. Our President contends with Christians and gun owners more than with Islamic terrorists.
 - f. Very costly and inefficient socialized medicine has become law of the land.
 - g. A pitifully confused former Olympics athlete receives public acclaim for changing genders.
 - h. People who “identify” with a gender contrary to what they *are* are gaining protected status.
 - i. People of the same gender are now allowed to marry.
 - j. People who will not serve same-sex weddings are being prosecuted.
2. We must know how not to be tossed to and fro like children but to stand on the Scriptures!
 - a. Know what love is, for you shall be charged with hate – “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (I John 4:10)
 - b. Keep yourself in that love – “Keep yourselves in the love of God.” (Jude 1:21)
 - c. Know the times – “The children of Issachar ... were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.” (I Chron. 12:32)
 - d. Foresee the evil – “A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself.” (Prov. 22:3)

- e. Sense urgency – “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.” (II Pet.3:11)
- f. Judge all things – “He that is spiritual judgeth all things.” (I Cor. 2:15)
- g. Preserve innocence – “I would have you ... simple concerning evil.” (Rom. 16:19)
- h. Resist secularization – “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” (I Cor. 2:2)
- i. Reject pluralism – “If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” (Gal. 1:9)
- j. Preserve liberties – “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (Gal. 5:1)
- k. Combat socialism – “If any would not work, neither should he eat.” (II Thess. 3:10)
- l. Honor authorities – “[Pray] for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” (I Tim. 2:2)
- m. Pray without ceasing – “If ye shall ask anything in my name, I shall do it.” (John 14:14)
- n. Defend your Creator – “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.” (Ecc. 12:1)
- o. Enjoy providence – “Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.” (Hab. 3:18)

D. Be Strong

1. Again, real men remember why they are on earth, know what would make them strong or weak, and act accordingly.
2. Key: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” (Eph. 6:10)

DISCUSSION

As believers stand for truth, they can expect the world to make charges against them. The following are some of those charges. Give Scriptural answers for each.

* You are being hateful.

* You are being intolerant.

* You are being unscientific.

* You are being hypocritical.

* You are being invasive.

* You are being unlawful.