

Exeter Church of Christ



**STAND
FIRM IN
THE
LORD ...**

PHILIPPIANS 4:1

January 26, 2020

320 East Firebaugh / 592-2909

Taking a stand

"Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Expediency asks the question: Is it politic? Vanity asks the question: Is it popular? But conscience asks the question: Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular – but one must take it simply because it is right."

– Martin Luther King Jr.

JANUARY

26, 2020



SENIOR SAINTS' DAY is set for Sunday, February 9. It's our annual celebration in honor of seasoned saints (65+). "Juniors" are asked to provide the potluck meal for the day. The sermon will likely be designed to fit the occasion and, who knows, there may be *Senior Adults* a surprise or two.

MAKE RESERVATIONS: The *Ladies' Auxiliary* of the *Manor House* is sponsoring a "Valentine's Day Dinner" Saturday, February 15, at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$50 per couple or \$25 for singles. *Hors d'oeuvres*, *Filet Mignon* and "Decadent Desserts" are on the menu. RSVP is required. See the posted flyer for additional details.



AFTER a brief illness, *Manor House* resident **Victor Glaze** passed away Tuesday, January 21. A memorial service will be conducted this Friday in our church facility. Time for the service is 10:00 am and light refreshments will be served afterward. *Smith Family Chapel* is in charge of arrangements. Check the bulletin board for an obituary.

TODAY'S Word: "Stand"

(Ephesians 6:10-14)

Believers are called to *stand firm* in the Lord when the *day of evil* comes



Family Matters

While walking downtown, *Manor House* resident **Don Winkler** took a couple of tumbles Wednesday and broke a rib. **Peggy Shackelford** was out and about last week and made a trip to the beauty shop. We're having good turnouts for the mid-week Bible study in *Hebrews*. Let's keep it up!

Life is a Spiritual Battlefield

"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." (Ephesians 6:10-11)

It is only through God's power that you can expect to win the spiritual battles of life. If you enter the battlefield alone, there's no telling what will happen. But, if you enter in his power, you are guaranteed to win. As John said in First John 4:4, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them [false spirits], because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Because Jesus Christ has been given all power in heaven and Earth, we do not have to lose spiritual battles... You may be thinking, "What exactly is a spiritual battle?"

Every time you are presented with the opportunity to entertain a lustful thought, you have entered a spiritual battlefield. Every time you have the chance to do something vindictive, you are on the battlefield. Every time you have the chance to say something harsh and hurtful, you are in the midst of battle. Every time you toy with the notion that you're just a little bit better than most of the people you know, you are surrounded by enemy fire. Every time you encounter a person in need, you are engaged in combat.



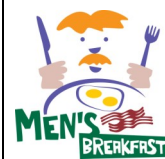
Life is a spiritual battlefield, and there is a force at work in this world that does not want you to do good. There is a force at work in this world that does not want you to live for Jesus. There is a force at work in this world that does not want you to minister to others in his name. There is a force at work in this world that does not want you to reflect God's love and mercy. And that force will do whatever it takes to make sure you don't do it...

Now, let me make this perfectly clear. Our enemy might be strong, but our Savior is stronger. Don't get the impression that a fight between God and the devil is a close match. The devil has been defeated. Beaten. Stomped. Humiliated. He has no power in your life, so you don't have to moan and groan about how oppressive the devil is. All you have to do is put on the full armor of God and you will win the battle. James 4:7 says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

- Steve May



HEBREWS, chapter 3
(7:00 pm)



Church of God
(Chestnut & H)
February 15
8:30 am



MISSION Trip: **James Rawlins** & **Manuel Garcia** will lead a mission trip during spring break (April 4-11) to restore and open an orphanage in La Gloria, Baja California. Teens and adults are invited to participate. See additional information that is posted on the bulletin board.



Church of Christ

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| Sunday | |
| Bible class | 9:30 AM |
| Worship | 10:30 AM |
| Wednesday | |
| Bible class | 7:00 PM |

Stand Firm

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the schemes of the devil... so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**. **Stand firm**, therefore... (Ephesians 6:11, 13-14)*

A humorous saying which I used to quote says, “Don’t just do something, stand there!” And that is exactly what Paul calls Christian soldiers to do here. And he wants to emphasize it so much, he doesn’t say it just once, not twice, not even three times, but four times in these few verses. He wanted to get it pounded into our minds that the best thing we can do in Spiritual Warfare is simply to stand our ground....

Why would we get such orders? What kind of plan of attack is this? Who has ever won a war by just standing their ground?

Well, first of all, we’re not trying to win a war. The war has already been won. Jesus won the entire war for us when He died on the cross and rose from the dead. We don’t have to march out to meet the enemy, because the enemy is already defeated. The enemy has already been vanquished. The enemy has already been conquered. Thankfully, God didn’t tell us to go out there and defeat Satan, because we never could have done that. That would be a suicide mission. He is much stronger and powerful than any one of us. God knows that we would be easily defeated... So, we’re not trying to win this war; we’re just trying to survive the battle, and hold on to the ground God has given to us to defend.



Therefore put on the
full armor of God ...

EPHESIANS 6:13, NIV