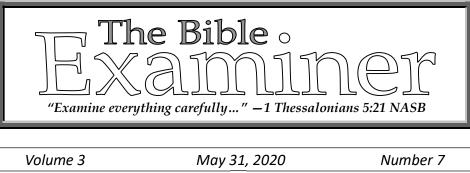


## Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road Elkmont, AL 35620



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## By Bill Hall

*"Finally; my brethren, he strong in the Lord and in the power of His might"* (Ephesians 6:10).

In our battle against Satan, we cannot be victorious on the basis of our own strength. We must rely on the strength and might of the Lord.

> Did we in our own strength confide Our striving would he losing, Were not the right One on our side The Man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth is His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle. —Martin Luther

The reason we cannot win on the basis of our own strength is because of the nature of the foe. *"We do not wrestle against flesh and blood"* (Ephesians 6:12). If it were our own strength against another man's strength, we might be victorious on our own. The foe, however, is a spiritual foe and a spiritual foe can be overcome only through the power of God's might.

### How to Rely on the Lord's Might

Through taking on the armor which *He* supplies: *salvation* as our helmet, *righteousness* as our breastplate, *truth* as our girdle, the *preparation of the gospel of peace* as our footwear, *faith* as our shield, and the *word of God* as our sword. There are those who rely on human philosophy, positive thinking, transcendental meditation, monasticism, selfdeprivation, etc., for their armor. All such "arms of flesh" will fail.

Through constant prayer to the Lord for help. "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..." (Ephesians 6:18). The Lord helps us in so many ways. He shields us from temptation (Matthew 6:13). He tempers temptation when it does come (1 Corinthians 10:13). He brings good influences into our lives (Romans 1:12). He forgives when we are overcome (1 John 1:7,9). But He does not want us taking Him for granted. We must ask the Lord for help and thank Him as He brings us safely through each battle.

Through full expectation of victory. Let no one enter this battle with a defeatist attitude. Victory is assured for all who will rely upon the strength of the Lord. The words "that, ye may be able" appear three times in the Ephesians 6 passage (11,13,16). It is as though the Lord shows us the enemy and we, impressed with the enemy's obvious strength, begin to despair; then the Lord says, "You can defeat him; here is your armor, put on every piece; stay

close to me, I'll help you fight; if you suffer a knockdown, I'll pick you up; just keep fighting; persevere; watch; the victory is yours!"

#### Stand, Therefore

We must, stand, however, if we would win the battle. Stand! Stand! Stand! The word appears three times in the text (Ephesians 6:11,15,14). The best armor in the world is of little value if there is a coward inside. It is not unusual to find a man who seems to be well equipped for battle. He knows the scriptures, has studied the meaning of scripture, has memorized extensively, has all the appearance of a great soldier—but when the first challenge is issued, he breaks into a sweat, wavers, vacillates, and compromises until an observer really can't tell which side he is on. He doesn't stand. Such a person faces sure defeat. Victory is assured, but only for those who will stand.

The battle rages. The struggle is great. The enemy is formidable. The stakes are great—eternal in nature, in fact. Thank the Lord the hope for victory rests not on **ours**, but upon **His** strength and might.

—via **Two Men**, 1998, p73-75

What is Wrong?

Something is bad wrong when we cannot have all of the members of the church, and their children, in attendance for Bible study. If you are a habitual absentee, consider that your eternal welfare depends upon your finding and correcting what is wrong. A few possibilities are listed:

If you are too sick to go, something is wrong with your health. You should consult a doctor.

If you think you don't need the help that comes from Bible study, something is wrong with your education. You don't know enough to know what you need most.

If you sleep too late, you are too lazy. You need to study Proverbs 6:6-11.

If you don't have the interest to go, something is terribly wrong with your attitude. Indifference causes people to be lost. If you are too busy to go, something is wrong with your schedule. The person who is "too busy" to serve the Lord is "too busy" to go to heaven.

If you let company keep you away, then something is wrong with your courage. You should have the grit to serve the Lord even if the company is missed or offended.

If you think your clothes are not good enough, something is wrong with your pride. This excuse is over exalted, for the persons who use it can usually go anywhere else in the same town similarly dressed.

And when any of the above, excepting the first, are the reasons you will not regularly worship and study, something is wrong with your heart. Do not deceive yourself by thinking that everything will "work out alright" if everything is not all right with your heart—check yours! —Author unknown

» Remember in Prayer «

Dwight and Shirley's son, Michael Mitchell, was baptized into Christ last Sunday (5/24)! Cindy Vilander had rotator cuff surgery this past Friday (5/29). God willing, Robert plans to preach on the radio again **beginning June 7**<sup>th</sup>; pray that his efforts will be effective.

Please continue to pray for Lois Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Polly McNatt...