

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9

the LifeWord

with Michael Green



November 7, 2008

Dear Friends:

PUT UP YOUR DUKES

Although he may have finished his earth journey two thousand years ago, Paul THE Apostle, not to be confused with any who might have the same middle name (like Joe THE Plumber), left us words that are astonishingly accurate and apropos for living life today.

We find, while focused on equipping and instructing for life "*in the day*", Paul was openly working the parallel preparation program for the "*day that was to come*". He was clear eyed and convinced in this mission and it permeated all he touched.

The object of the exercise? To be thoroughly furnished to all good works.

In 2008, while the Hounds of Hell nip at our heels, this must also be our goal and our objective. We do ourselves an eternal disservice if we try to live this dead end life disconnected from the spirit-led, life giving truths Paul preached until his last breath. Clearly, he got it!

Paul knew that Christ's victory over the Adversary was complete but he keenly understood the need to repeatedly remind co-workers, young men, and even whole churches in his charge, to remain in a perpetual state of soberness and readiness while we lived here. Words like fervent, vigilant, resist, withstand and armed often show up in his vocabulary.

He was likely reminded of Jesus' words, "*...But deliver us form the evil one...*" Yeah, there really is an evil one out there and Paul constantly sounded the alarm. Therefore, we are fools if we disregard his words by citing silly expressions like, "*that was then, this is now*". No, that is now and we are smack dab in the middle of it.

Bottom line, our spiritual warfare awareness needs to be cranked up a notch because, as the songwriter said, "*It ain't no new thing*".

The New Living Bible has a strong take on his II Corinthians 10 words, "*We are human but we don't wage war with human plans or methods. With these weapons we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God*". Notice, although earthly struggles are real, these struggles are really won in the Heavenly realms. They all have a divine connect.

While working on this note, I got an email using a few more words from THE Apostle. It is an Ephesians word, *"having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven and which are on the earth...in Him."*

Soon after, Linda walked in with more words from, you guessed it, Paul. These words came after all the natural exhorting words and it puts the call and the challenge in divine perspective, *"Finally (we could work on that word all day), be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, put on the armor so that you can stand. For we are not fighting a flesh and blood fight but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual wicked stuff all over"*. I guess you can tell some of this is my interpretation.

He then goes through all of the needed spiritual equipment to stand: The Word, The Spirit, Truth, Righteousness, Faith and The Peace of God topped off with a helmet of Salvation. You would think, *"That should just about do it"* but he isn't finished.

Ephesians 6:18 gives further instruction, *"praying always with all prayers and supplications in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance ..."* In other words, we do all of this until the trumpet sounds!

Paul's Spiritual Warfare call should be getting louder in your ears and finding a more important place in your spirit. In a related thought, E.M. Bounds said, *"Nothing is beyond the reach of prayer because no prayer is too hard for God to answer"*.

In the Word, it is clearly stated and implied throughout, in the natural, we cannot out talk or outwit our opponent but we can take authority in Jesus' Name. That is what Paul continues to scream to us from the balconies of Heaven.

On your knees and fight!

Michael

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