

Take A Stand!

Three times in Ephesians 6:10-14, the apostle Paul wrote: “stand ... stand ... stand”. He encouraged Christians to take a stand against the devil. We all need to take a stand today because it is commanded. We need to take a stand because others need our godly example to follow. We need to take a stand so that we won't fall.

Christians are to stand **FOR** the right cause. They are to stand for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27).

Christians are to stand **ON** the right platform. They are to stand on the foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Christians are to stand **IN** the right person. They are not to stand in the wisdom of men (1 Corinthians 2:5), but stand in the Lord (1 Thessalonians 3:8). How do they do this? They stand in the words of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1).

Christians are to stand **APART** from the wrong crowd. They are not to stand in the way of sinners (Psalm 1:1,5). They associate with sinners, but not with sin.

Christians stand **WITH** the right attitude. They stand with a humble fear of God (Romans 11:20) and with a caution toward their own falling (1 Corinthians 10:12).

How Christians stand today determines how they will stand in the judgment day (Romans 14:10). Are you taking a stand against the devil? - *Chris Reeves*

Up-Coming Events

Gospel Meeting

April 20-23

(Thr. through Sat., 7 PM)

- Thr: What Is A Church of Christ?
- Fri: Our Mission In Your Community
- Sat: What Must I Do to Be Saved?
- Sun: That Good Book — The Bible (9:30 AM)
- Sun: How NT Christians Worshipped (10:30 AM)
- Sun: Where Did I Come From, Why Am I Here, Where Am I Going? (6 PM)

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited by
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

What To Do With Your Past

A number of TV reality programs and talk shows, like Dr. Phil or Jerry Springer, are geared toward revealing the past lives of their guests. If the guests are not discussing some immoral lifestyle in the present, they are usually discussing the problems of their past. This is a popular TV format and millions of Americans tune in to listen.

Put aside for a moment what you have seen on TV and ask yourself, “What does the Bible say about my past? What does God want me to do with my past?” Let’s take a look at a few lessons from God’s word concerning your past.

First, your past affects your present and your future. The Bible says you “reap what you sow” (Galatians 6:7-8). What you sow in the past (habits, practices, attitudes, etc.) will come up and grow today and tomorrow.

This is true materially. If you have been lazy and do no work, then you will have no lasting possessions (Proverbs 24:30-34; Ecclesiastes 10:18). This is true spiritually. If you have been negligent in your family, then you will not be useful in the Lord’s work (1 Timothy 3:4-7). This is true eternally. If you have not obeyed God’s word, then you cannot go to heaven (Luke 16:25).

Second, your past can hurt you and hold you back. Some people, like the Pharisees of Jesus’ day, are so committed to

their past traditions (family, country, church, etc.) that it blinds them to obedience to God’s word in the present (Matthew 15:1-20).

Your past can also destroy your future. Judas had a past that led him to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. He could have left his past and come back, but instead he chose to end his life with suicide (Matthew 27:3-10).

Your past will also determine how God will treat you. If you have been forgiving, then God will forgive you. If you have been unforgiving, then God will not forgive you (Matthew 6:14-15; 7:2).

Third, your past can help you. Your past can help you to gain confidence in God like it did with David (1 Samuel 17:37). Your past can help you face difficult trials like it did with Job (Job 2:9-10; 29:1ff). Your past can help you to grow and repent (change). The churches listed in Revelation 2 and 3 were told to look to the past so they could repent in the present.

Your past can help you to forgive others when you remember how you were forgiven yourself (Matthew 18:32-35). Your past can help you to stay humble like it did with the Israelites when they wandered in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 9:7).

Fourth, don’t try to deny your past or live in your past. Solomon wrote: “*Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this*” (Ecclesiastes 7:10). It is good to remember your past, but don’t live in it. Remember it in order to make the necessary

changes. Use it to help yourself and others. This is what Peter did after he denied Jesus (Matthew 26:75; Luke 22:32).

Fifth, don’t let your past rob you of your present responsibilities. When you learn that you have done wrong in the past, don’t just sit around and think about it. Get up and correct it. You have a responsibility to get up and change (Ezekiel 18:30-32; Acts 2:37; 16:30; 22:10).

Sixth, directly address your past and seek forgiveness from God for it. Peter told the sinful audience who heard his sermon: “repent and be baptized” (Acts 2:38). Is this what you need to do? Peter told the erring Christian named Simon: “repent and pray” (Acts 8:18-24). Is this what you need to do?

Finally, improve upon your past. Paul said that he left his past behind and was now pressing forward to the future and still growing (Philippians 3:4-16).

Your past is like the rearview mirror in your car. You don’t look at your rearview mirror all the time, just occasionally for reference to aid you in driving. You look back briefly so that you can look forward regularly.

Your life is not a reality program or a talk show, so use your past wisely. Turn to God’s word in order to deal with your past. Take care of your past properly so that you can be ready for Jesus to come in the present or the future - *Chris Reeves*