

## FIGHTING CHRISTIANS

Joel Wheeler

Christians should be fighting. One usually thinks of fighting as a street brawl or a violent argument between two or more individuals. Many times individuals think of fighting as physical concerns. It may surprise you to learn that Christians are commanded to fight. Christians are not to fight with fist but the fight that we are involved in is a spiritual one. Paul wrote "Fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12). The Greek word literally means "to agonize; to contest publicly." Christians are soldiers in a public contest. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). There are many reasons for Christians to fight.

**Christians must fight temptation.** Jesus showed us how to overcome temptations from Satan (Matt. 4:1-13; Luke 4:1-11). Temptations come at us almost every day. Instead of yielding to temptations, we must look for a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). We can fight temptations by knowing what is involved (James 1:14-16) and keep our body in subjection just as Paul did.

**Christians must fight the spirit of fear.** Jesus gave the remedy for worry and fear (Matt. 6:25-34). Most people worry about various things. There are two things that a person should not worry about and that is (1) things that you can help, and (2) things that you cannot help. Paul wrote that God not given us the spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:7).

**Christians must fight worldliness.** To fight worldliness means that we must not conform to the mold of the world. Christians are transformed from this world's philosophies to the way of holiness (Rom. 12:1-2). The apostle John reassures Christians that the world will one day pass away, but God's Word will not pass away (1 John 2:17).

**Christians must fight discouragement.** Satan uses discouragement against Christians when everything else fails to draw them away. It is easy to fall prey to Satan and his devices of discouragement (2 Cor. 2:11). Discouragement is the first step to defeat. The Lord has given us the power to overcome discouragement (1 John 4:4).

Satan is our enemy and is doing all that he can to destroy Christians. One must fight to survive this great enemy (1 Pet. 5:8, 9).

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -

### INFLUENCE

I watched him walk in the way of life  
With heart and head held high;  
It always seemed my load grew light  
Whenever he passed by.  
I patterned everything I did  
By what I saw him do;  
That he loved God, I could not doubt  
Because his life was true.  
I often wished that more like his  
My life might somehow be.  
Imagine my surprise to find  
That he had been watching me.

- Author Unknown - (Bulletin Digest)

*Idleness is the nest where in lays its eggs.*

### News & Notes

**SYMPATHY:** To Mervin & Scharlotte Jones at the passing of Mervin's mother, Sabelita Jones. Also to Bill & Amy (Wilson) McKitrick At the passing of Bill's mother, Lucy McKitrick. God bless and comfort these in their sorrow.

**NEW CONVERT CLASS:** Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All the ladies are invited and urged to help in this good work.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES:** Each Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m. Men are urged to attend this good class.

**99th BIRTHDAY:** Gladys Pryor (former member here) will celebrate her 99th birthday next Thursday, Feb. 1st. Her address: Consulate Health Care of Orange Park, 1215 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073. She would appreciate cards.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Next Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 8:00 a.m. at Connie's Corner in Chester.

**NURSING HOME VISIT & DEVOTIONAL:** Next Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 2:30 p.m. at Fox Covered Dish Dinner & **EARLY P.M. SERVICE:** Next Sunday, Feb. 4th at about Noon at the Fellowship Bldg. This will be followed by an early afternoon worship service at 2:00 p.m. (instead of 5:30 p.m.) at the church building. This early service only applies once each month following our fellowship dinner.

**GETTING BETTER ACQUAINTED:** In an effort to become better acquainted with families in the congregation, the Elders & Minister would like to make home visits or arrange a visit here at the building. This is entirely on a voluntary basis. A sign up sheet will be available next Sunday, Feb. 4th.

**PANTRY:** Macaroni & cheese.

**REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS & CARDS:** Sharon Pugh (Charles' wife), 1601 - 31st Street, Vienna, WV 26105. Sharon had recent cancer surgery. **Dan Shroades, Jr.** (needs kidney transplant), 1113 Skyline Drive, Tocco, Ga 30577. Dan is Pat Allison's cousin.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** David Stefl, University Hospital Medical Center, 11100 Euclid Avenue, Room 5020, Cleveland, OH 44106. **Mary Jane Bowers,** Carriage Inn, 3102 St. Charles Dr., Room 407, Steubenville, OH 43952, Phone: 740-264-7161). **At Home:** Tom Miskimen (husband of Cindy), Stan Williams, Bill & Carol Stillwell, Russell Martin, Linda Wiersbicki, Fred Larrimore, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Tom Wells (ex-husband of Claudette Miller). **FOX NURSING HOME:** Mary Nelson. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

**WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS ...** A young man once found a \$5.00 bill in the road. From that time on, he never raised his eyes from the ground when he walked. In the next thirty years he accumulated \$1.60 in silver, 22 pennies, 11,318 buttons, 27,801 pins, a hunch back, a miserable disposition and a rotten character. He lost the glory of the sunshine, the smile of friends, the beauty of flowers, trees, blue skies, and all that there is that makes life worth living. Let each of us set our affections on things above!

- Author Unknown - (Bulletin Digest)