**“DECIDING OUR DESTINY”**

 **WHAT’S UP?**  October 11, 2020

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Election messages are right about one thing: we are in a battle for the soul of our country!

But believers in Christ are already in a battle – spiritual warfare. And we need to recognize the

stakes of this battle as it plays out in our national life right now. America has been greatly blessed

of God in the past and has provided more gospel missionaries, gifts of charity, disaster relief and

assistance to poor countries than any other nation in the history of the world. But we are in grave

danger of throwing away our identity, and hence our destiny, in this generation.

**Ephesians 6: 10-13**

**1.**  **Wake Up! (v.10, Finally, my brethren…, 12)**

 Christianity involves both Building and Battling

 \***Luke 14: 28, 31** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost,

 whether he has *enough* to finish *it*— 31) Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not

 sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with

 twenty thousand? NKJV

 Satan works behind the scenes all the time (1:21, 2:2, 3:10, 4:24, 5:11)

 What Satan does to a person, he also seeks to do to a nation

 \***Luke 4: 5-6** Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world

 in a moment of time. 6And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this*

 has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. NKJV

**2.** **Look Up! (v.10, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might)**

 \* **Psalm 121: 1-2** I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? 2 My help *comes*

 from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. NKJV

 The battle for the soul of America is more than political, It is spiritual!!

 \* **2 Cor. 10: 3-5** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons

  of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5casting down arguments

 and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity

 to the obedience of Christ, NKJV

 Only by constantly looking up to the Lord can we maintain courage, faith, hope, love

**3. Stand Up! (v.11, 13, withstand in the evil day…stand…Stand)**

 \***1Peter 1:13** Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace

 that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ NKJV

 Be willing to stand up for truth and righteousness, and to stand out if need be

 \* **Exodus 5:1** Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel:

 ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’ ” NKJV

 **Daniel 3:18** But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship

 the gold image which you have set up.” NKJV

 **Acts 5:28-29** saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have

 filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!” 29 But Peter and the

 *other* apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. NKJV

 **John 5:44** How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor

 that *comes* from the only God? NKJV

**4.** **Show Up! (v. 11, 13, Put on the whole armor of God)**

 \* for PRAYER – v.18 – and be “dressed to kill”!

 \* for the POLLS…your vote = your voice

 BE HEARD, don’t be silent!

 In our unique nation, Romans 13:1 allows ‘WE THE PEOPLE” authority

**5. Speak Up! (19-20)**

 \* for PERSUASION

 \* don’t be “the SILENT majority” – speak the truth in love when you can

**Colossians 4:6** *Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know

 how you ought to answer each one. NKJV

**6. Never Give Up!**

 \***1 Cor. 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the

 work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. NKJV

 **2 Samuel 23:9-10** And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty

 men with David when they defied the Philistines *who* were gathered there for battle, and the men of

 Israel had retreated. 10He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand

 stuck to the sword. The Lord brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him

 only to plunder. NKJV