Are You Prepared For Battle?  
II Corinthians 10:4

Introduction:
A. What plans have you made for this Sabbath Day?
B. Will you read a passage of Scripture pray or just rest and take a nap?
C. Did you awake this morning prepared to fight a battle?
D. Many Christians fail to realize we are at war that our enemy is real.
E. The failure to fight has caused much causality.
F. We must prepare because:

I. Our Danger is Real.
A. Peter tells us to guard against being a victim of this war. II Peter 1:18
B. Peter reminds us that Satan roams the earth-seeking victims. I Peter 5:8
C. Jesus had already warned Peter about this. Luke 22:21, 22
D. Remember, Satan is more intelligent and stronger than we are and uses people for his own purposes.
E. God is our safe-haven and our source of strength. Stay close to Him.

II. Our Enemy is Deceptive.
A. He makes promises filled with lies, Genesis 3:5.
B. He twists the truth. Matt 4:6
C. He devises cunning plans. II Cor 2:11
D. He appears as an angel of light.
E. He claims that material possessions being happiness. Deut 7:25

III. Our Battle Ground is Personal.
A. Proverbs reminds us that as a man thinks so is he, Proverbs 23:7
B. The attack from evil comes from within and is all around us. Romans 7
C. If we walk in darkness, we separate our selves from God. Eph 4:17, 18
D. Jeremiah lamented over Israel. Wash thine heart from wickedness so you may be saved. Jeremiah 4:4
E. Let us renew our minds daily. Romans 12:1, 2

IV. Our Weapons are Spiritual.
A. Note carefully David’s words to Goliath written in I Samuel 17:45.
B. God has provided superior weapons. II Cor 10:4
C. We are engaged in battle against powers who govern this world is darkness and spiritual forces D. Let us cast off the works of darkens and put on the armor of light. Rom 13:12
E. These weapons are found in Ephesians 6:12. They are truth, righteousness, the Gospel, faith, that control evil in the heavenly world. Eph 6:12 salvation and the sword of the Spirit (our one offensive weapon).

Conclusion:
A. Believers have won the victory over Satan through the blood of the Lamb.
B. Believers are victorious through the word of their testimony.
C. Do you know Jesus as your Savior?
D. Are you engaged in battle?

Carl E. Fitzgerald
Grace M.B.C.
TROUBLED WATERS IN THE PATH OF OBEDIENCE
Mark 4:35-40

Introduction: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." II Rom. 8:28

Being saved doesn't set one apart from trouble. Being obedient to Christ doesn't mean that all is going to be easy.

I. THE DISCIPLES WERE OBEDIENT.
   A. Jesus said to them, "Let us pass over unto the other side," and they set out to do exactly what He said.
   B. Obedience pleases the Lord. I Sam. 15:22.
   C. These disciples were obedient to a specific command.
      1. The command was go to the other side.
      2. There was no turning back from this undertaking.
   3. Every Christian is given commands of Jesus Christ from which there should be no turning back.
   D. In the path of obedience trouble lurks.
      1. It is not always apparent.
      2. It is always serious.
         a. The waves beat into the ship so that it was full.
         b. The ship in the sea is O.K. but sea in the ship is dangerous.
   c. Christians in the world are O.K. but danger arises when the world gets in the Christians.
   3. The storm of trouble may appear in the form of:
      a. Financial trouble.
      b. Sickness and death in the family.
      c. False accusations.
      d. Family problems.
      e. Other things.

II. THE GREAT QUESTION BY FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST IN TIME OF TROUBLE.
   A. Carest thou not that we perish?
   B. Where was Christ?
      1. In the hinder part of the ship.

2. Many have Jesus in the hinder part of their life. He wants to lead and direct, not follow.
3. When in the hinder part of the ship, He has an inactive role.
   a. No role at all, He is just there.
   b. Some seem to say, "Take your rest, Lord, and if I need you, I will call."
   C. He shows His care when called upon.
      1. When He responds to a call for help, the power of God and the will of God is brought to bear in dealing with the storms of life.
         a. He stopped the winds and calmed the sea.
         b. No enemy of a child of God can withstand His power when rebuked by Christ.
      2. He may not always calm the troubled sea, but if not, He will walk with us through the storms of life. Matt. 14:30-32.

III. THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF JESUS IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.
   A. Why are you so fearful?
      Why is it you have no faith?
   B. They had saving faith, but not faith to trust Him with their lives in hard times.
      1. The lack of faith in troubous times results in fear.
      2. Fear can result in foolishness.

Conclusion: Obey Him at all times in all things. Never put Christ in the hinder part of your life, but always up front in the leadership role. Follow Him where He leads and trust Him to secure and sustain you in each step of the way.

P.A. Dubose  Eastside MBC Gary
BLESSED WITH OUR REQUESTS, LEAN IN OUR SOULS
Psalm 106:15

INTRO:
1. Psalmist re-counts a portion of Israel’s history.
   a. He met every physical need they had—garments did not wear out or shoes.
   b. They wanted much more - God gave it to them - manna & quail.
2. It reminds us of how God blessed them in the wilderness (”He gave them their request”).
3. The more they received materially the more they wanted (”They lusted exceedingly” v.14)
   a. The more they had, the farther they turned from God (v.13,”They forgot His works”).
   b. They became so blessed materially (”They forgot God their Saviour”v-27).
4. Has it happened to you?
5. Let’s see how lean things are around us.

I. OUR NATION IS BLESSED BUT LEAN IN SOUL.
A. There is no nation that can match U.S.A. materially. (God has blessed our land.)
B. Our country is second to none in material prosperity.
C. Many & great are the blessings of our country from God. (Gen.12:3,”I will bless him that blesseth thee.”)
D. Yet, spiritually, our nation is lean in its soul.
   1. Our nation no longer the country of ONE GOD. (’gods’= pleasure, dollar, Buddha, Mohammed, Devil, women, etc)
   2. No longer a nation of "Thus saith the Lord.”
      a. The Bible is equated with the works of great men - (God says, "Ye have despised my word.")
      b. The Bible is scarcely used, if at all considered, in Chapter with in our borders
   3. So lean is our nation spiritually she is falling ---

II. OUR CHURCH IS BLESSED BUT LEAN IN HER SOUL. Rev. 3:16-17
A. Our Church is truly Laodicean in character where material prosperity is concerned.
   1. We are "RICH."
   2. We are "INCREASED with GOODS."
   3. We have "NO NEED."
   4. We meet our physical obligations.
B. Our Church is truly Laodicean spiritually.
   1. "Wretched" = enduring severe effort & hardship; hence miserable, afflicted.
      a. We must struggle with ourselves to get ready & come to Church.
      b. When we must struggle with ourselves to pray & read the Bible. (Like Sardis Church, our works are not perfect before God.)
      c. We must force ourselves to visit a BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHRIST. (We have the doctrine of the Nicolatians as Pergamos Church did.)
      d. When souls are not saved, a Church is wretched.
         1. Like the Ephesians, we have left our first love."
         2. When Church members have no or at best little, desire to see souls saved, a Church is wretched.
         3. When Church members refuse to seek the salvation of souls, a Church is wretched.

a. The curse of blood is upon our land (Ezek.9:9)
   b. Violence fills our land (Lk.17:26; Gen.6:5,11)
   d. Graft = the taking of money or other gain in dishonest or questionable ways is practiced by politicians, judges, business people & they feel no remorse for it. (I Tim. 6:10).
   E. Can you see the leanness in the soul of our nation?
BLESSED WITH OUR REQUEST - CONT

4. From v.17 I believe God was not pleased with the Laodicean Church & I do not believe He is pleased with our Church either.

2. Miserable" = 'to be pitied.'
   a. It must be so, we see so few faithful members.
   b. We see so many who are not interested enough in God's Church & things to change & become more faithful.
   c. As the world looks upon us, truly we should be pitied by them since we show only "a form of godliness while we deny the power thereof."

3. The hand of God has touched them" & they do not know it Job 19:21
   c. They do not know daily experiences they might have had with God.
   1. God walks with them & they don't know it.
   2. God helps them; they call it "luck."
   3. Children with little knowledge of Jesus' saving power.
      a. They have heard over & over the Gospel message Rom.1:16
      b. They have felt the conviction of God for sin & God tugging at their heart.
      c. They are unsaved; they know not God Eph. 2:1
      d. They live under the influence of the Gospel, yet they are unsaved - ("Cursed children: who have forsaken the right way & gone astray"
      2 Pet.2:14-15
      e. They are most lean in their souls. 'The "dry bones of Ezekiel have nothing on our unsaved kids for dryness of spirit."
      C. Is your family blessed materially but lean in soul?

III. OUR FAMILIES ARE BLESSED BUT LEAN IN SOUL.
   A. God has met every need our families have had.
      1. In fact, God has gone beyond the needs in most cases.
      2. We have food, raiment, shelter - every necessity.
      3. Which one of us can charge God with failure?
      4. Oh, how our families are like Israel was
   B. But, in the matter of our souls - many families are lean.
      1. Parents who are spiritually poor.
         a. Of little faith when we should be full of faith Acts 6:3
         b. Of little wisdom (Should be wise in God's ways).
         c. Destitute of H.S. influence & work though we should be filled with the Spirit. Eph.5:18
      2. Children with little experience w God
         a. Sad, but we have saved children who know God in only that way.
         b. They have not been led into a trusting of God relationship in their lives.
            a. No confidence in the Bible.
            b. No prayer life.

IV. AS INDIVIDUALS WE ARE BLESSED BUT LEAN IN OUR SOUL Mk.9:24
   A. Each of us is blessed of God.
      1. When was the last time you had a NEED?
         a. You went to bed hungry?
         b. You NEEDED something to wear?
         c. You NEEDED a roof over your head?
      2. We have more than heart could desire.
      3. God has truly blessed us.
   B. Mk. 9:24 records a testimony of a man who is typical of many Baptists & other believers today.
      1. With a desire v.17
      2. With a little faith v.22
         a. "Oh ye of little faith" Jesus said.
      b. May as well carry around a cardboard placard with letters F-A-I-T-H on it.
BLESSED WITH OUR REQUESTS CONTI

c. The Lord would be right
to be ashamed of us, but He is not.
3. With little hope (v-24b).
4. Sad, but we are the people
of God to whom Christ yet says, "Oh
ye of little faith Lk. 12:28
a. I Peter 2:2-3

b. Then let’s grown to
maturity (Heb.5:13-14)
5. Jesus said,' "Have faith in
God. Mark 11:22
C. Many are blessed materially &
in soul, being lost.
1. You have nothing spiritually
2. You do not have God as your
Saviour.
3. Your sins are many & great &
you desire no forgiven
4. Jesus has suffered & died
for you & you are untouched
a. Today, you will not
repent – too proud.
b. Today, you will not
believe in Jesus – you are too
troubled by what others will think.
D. Oh, precious one, lean in soul,
why will ye die & perish

Carroll Grisby Unity MBC

THINGS TO WEEP OVER"
Lk. 19:41-44
Intro: This scene is familiar to Bible readers - it
is one of the few days when Jesus seemed to
be triumphant - yet we see Him beholding the
city and weeping.
1. Eccl 3:4 states there is a time to weep -
laugh etc.
a. "Jesus wept" is the shortest verse in
the Bible.
b. He was at the grave of Lazarus, His
friend.
c. Remember Jesus weeps with us
when any sorrow comes.
2. We are admonished to "weep with
those who do weep etc."
a. Weeping and deeper compassion like
our Lord is one of the needs of our day.
b. Had you thought of this? We do weep
easier than we do rejoice? Let a member suffer
we suffer - let a member be successful &
rejoice - do we rejoice? Do we?

c. Many things to rejoice over - but there
comes a time to weep- to show deep
compassion.

I. WEEP OVER CITIES - vs 41
1. Jesus was weeping over the city of
Jerusalem.
a. The city of the Jews - the city where the
Temple was
b. But the city that had rejected Him as
the Messiah.
2. Consider some reasons for weeping over
this city.
a. Jesus looked at the people He loved &
wept –

b. They "knew not" things which belong
to them, peace.
c. They knew not the judgments coming
vs 43-44
3. Cities of our day doing same thing -
rejecting only One - who can give peace.

a. Nations today crying "peace, peace" &
yet turmoil, war, strife, and ungodliness,
vioence.
b. How can this world have peace when
the Prince of Peace is rejected?

II. WEEP OVER BROKEN HOMES & WRECKED
& RUINED LIVES.
1. Think of the tragedy when a home breaks
up.

a. Love has died –but there never was
love - I never did really love him or her then
hypocrisy is revealed.
b. When children are involved - tragedy
compounded - millions are being raised in
America with out knowing what the
tender love of a Mother really is - many boys
never know what the leadership of a Christian
dad is -
c. Should we weep over these
conditions? Our families, our church, our town,
not immured from sad condition.
2. Think of the wrecked and ruined lives of
those you love

a. if they were physically ill - ask other to
help you pry
b. Don’t be afraid to ask prayer for your
wife – your husband - your children - your
parents -
c. It is a tragedy compounded when a
Christian home breaks when a church member
life is wrecked & ruined by sin.
d. It is a time to weep - is it not?
III. WEEP OVER BACKSLIDEN CHILDREN OF GOD.

1. Jeremiah called the "weeping prophet" - might we all be such!
   a. His desire was for his head be full of water and his eyes a fountain of tears – Jer. 9:1a
   b. Why? Because of the slain of the daughter of Israel!
   c. God had permitted judgment to come because of their idolatry.

2. Should we weep over backslidden churches & children of God?
   a. Churches and preachers– pastors - turning from word of God and turning to excitement and entertainment - pray for
   b. Church members who never attend - are they backslidden or UNSAVED? Tares or wheat.
   c. There is a way you can tell - if they live in sin without the chastisement of God, without Godspanking them -unsaved. If they are be chastened all the day long - saved but backslidden

3. Backslider is in bad shape. ~
   a. Writer of the song - "Come thou Fount" - in a backslidden condition heard someone read his poem and he wept - the reader was told "I wrote that poem - I was close to God, active in church, now away from God - backslidden" That night the words of his poem convicted him and he repented!
   b. Backslider is miserable, unhappy, and useless in His Service
   c. Let us weep over them.

IV. WEEP OVER THE LOST MULTITUDE -

1. Jesus saw the great multitude as sheep without a shepherd – and had compassion.
2. Paul's hearts desire & prayer to God for Israel – that they might be saved. Rom. 10:1
3. God promises conversions to weeping saints – Psa. 126:5-6
   a. If we hear nothing else of this message - get this promise.
   b. Lot of going forth - few tears - not much compassion -
   c. So many going forth just to get new members caring only for numbers and money - caring little for salvation of souls.
   d. Let us have that compassion for salvation of souls that Christ would get honor & another soul escape hell.


1. "Daughters of Jerusalem - weep for yourselves"
   a. Interesting note: No woman is mentioned as speaking against our Lord in His life, or having a share in His death -
   b. Contrary - He was anointed by a woman for His burial - women were first & last at His grave - to a woman He first appeared after His resurrection - women ministered to His needs - bewailed & lamented Him - a heathen woman interceded for His life with her husband, Pilate born of women

2. "...weep for yourselves and your children."
   a. How we need mothers to weep over lostness of children
   b. Sad that too many mothers wait too late to weep & pray.

George Crawford          Gone Home to Glory

REACHING THE THRONE OF GRACE

TEXT: James 4:2 Hebrews 4: 16

I. MEANING OF PRAYER. "Prayer is to speak personally to a person" "Prayer is man talking to his Father, who listens to him." Luke 11: 1-13 gives us six things concerning prayer:

1. The need of prayer v.1 Lord teach us to pray. "Divine power and counter parts of human weakness and need."

2. The teacher of prayer “Lord teach us to pray.”
   1) He came from God John 3: 2
   2) He was an example of prayer. Luke 6:12

3. The spirit of prayer. The model prayer teaches:
   1) Sonship "Our Father"
   2) Sanctification and reverence "Hallowed be thy name."
   3) Subjection "Thy kingdom come"
   4) Submission "Thy will be done"
   5) Supplication" Give us this day our daily bread"
REACHING THE THRONE OF GRACE
CONTI
6) Surrender "Forgive us our sins"
7) Sincerity "For we also forgive"
Ephesians 4:32
8) Security" and lead us not into
temptation."
4. Manner of prayer, v. 5-7
Importunity means: shamelessness, knowing
what you want and not ashamed to ask for it.
Hebrews 4:16
5. Simplicity of prayer v. 9-12
   As simple as a child asking bread from his
father.
6. Promises of prayer V. 13, John 14:14,
James 5:16
II. POWER OF PRAYER - "If ye ask anything."
Matthew 21: 22
1. The Old Testament men of power were
men of ... Prayer.
   1) Abraham. INTERCEDES FOR LOT
   2) Moses Exodus 3: 2
   3) Elijah - Mt. Carmel
   4) David - Psalms 139:23
2. The New Testament Church was a church
of power because of prayer. Acts 1:14, Acts ,
Acts 6:4
3. Prayer gives power for man to know
himself; his weakness; his sinfulness; his
selfishness; his powerlessness; and his
worthlessness. Romans 7: 18
   1) When Isaiah prayed he said: Isaiah 6: 5
      "Woe is me!"
   2) When Moses prayed he took off his
shoes: Exodus 3: 2 , 5, 11.
   3) When Job prayed he abhorred himself:
Job 42:5,6,10,12
   4. Prayer has power to bring about our
cleansing. Psalms 19:12,13 Psalms 51:2
   5. Prayer brings power of the Holy Spirit into
Acts 8:15-17, Ephesians 3:16
   6. Prayer gives power over temptation. Psalms
17:5, Luke 22:40
   7. Prayer power governs tongue. James 3:8,
Psalms 141:3
   8. Prayer power brings wisdom. James 1: 5,
Psalms 86: 11, Ephesians 1: 17

9. Prayer power gives insight into God's
word- Psalms 119: 18 only the man of prayer
can understand the Bible.
10. Prayer power will grow a church. Acts 4:24,
   1) Prayer without quitting is a must. Luke
18: 1
   11. Prayer power can bring help to others.
   1 Samuel 12:23, 1 Timothy 2:1, and 1 John 5:16
   12. Prayer power will bring about revival.
"Revive us again." Without preaching,
without machinery but not without prayer.
Isaiah 40: 31

III. THE PERSON OF PRAYER
1. He must pray believing. Matthew 21: 22,
James 1: 5- 7, Hebrews 11: 6
   2. He must pray unselfishly. James 4: 3
   3. He must have clean life. Isaiah 59: 1-2,
Psalms 66:18
   4. He must ask in Christ's name. John 14:14,
   1 John 5: 14-15
   5. He must live in Christ. John 15:7
   6. He must pray in the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:
   26
   7. He must have a forgiving spirit. Mark 11:
25-26, Colossians 3: 13
   8. He must pray with patience. Hebrew s 11:
14:15.

A.J. Wall
Gone to Glory
How will I Respond to God's Saving Grace?
Restoring Grace How God wipes out guilt and helps you start over
Sustaining Grace How God gives you the power to keep on going
Healing Grace How God does miracles in your life
Liberating Grace How to break free from perfectionism
Assuring Grace How to defeat your doubts
Offering Grace How to extend God's grace to others
Growing in Grace How to become what God wants you to be
   [God's will for your life]
Grace Missionary Baptist Church
1823 Aldine Mail Route Road
Houston, TX  77039
281-442-7137
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Grace Missionary Baptist Church

We want to offer the option of receiving of Sounding Out The Word via e-mail. If this is something you would be interested in please send your e-mail address to pastorcarl08@yahoo.com

ALSO

We still need more sermon material. Please look through you sermons and send us some that others might enjoy.

We need Jesus in every part of every day...
And the most wonderful thing About that is knowing He's, there for us with Love, Grace, arms open wide.

My prayer today is that you receive God's peace and benefit from all the blessings of His Grace.

"And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace ... grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."  John 1:16-17