

In search of...

Truth & Right

Volume 11 Issue 9

February 28, 2016

Against Hopelessness

Live long enough and you will hear the phrase, "pick your battles." Chances are you have in fact said it yourself concerning disagreements at work or with family members. Hopefully when you either hear this or say it, it is because so many of the little decisions we make are just that—little. They are of no real consequence, and as such, there is no reason to get worked up over them; prime examples of this would be what to have for dinner, or what color tie to wear, or how to pronounce "potato." In those cases, it is best to pick your battles and just let it go rather than argue with someone over something so trivial.

Perhaps, though, you have heard these words or even said them yourself with a slightly different meaning in mind. I fear that a great deal of the time people convince themselves to "pick their battles" with

the mindset to only focus on battles which they think they can win. We can all probably see the logic in that, right? After all, if something looks or feels like a lost cause, the wind goes out of our sails, and we do not see much of a point in spending out time and/or energy on it. Maybe you can relate to leaving a baseball game before it ends because your favorite team was down by double digits? More than likely we have all been there in one way or another, but it is the overall defeatist attitude and mindset to only fight the fights you can win that I want to address with this article.

Comparing such attitudes and remarks to the life of a Christian is interesting, because depending on how you look at it, we have already won.

"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has

overcome the world- our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:4-5)

So, in one sense, the main battle we face- against Satan and death- we have already won, if we are in Christ. Through Him we have forgiveness and hope. We know that Satan has already lost; his fate is sealed. Yet, even though we know what the end result will be for the devil and for those who trust in God, in our day to day lives things do not seem so cut and dry. Every day we struggle and it can be easy for us to stop and think that maybe it would be better to pick our battles, cut our losses, and walk away from the really difficult problems. For example, as Christians we know that God commands us to go out into the world and spread the gospel, yet many times it seems like the successes we see are few. The Bible even tells us that those who faithfully follow after the Lord will be in the minority:

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." (Matt. 7:13-14)

Knowing that most people are not pleasing the Lord and that only a small handful of the world's over six billion population will find salvation is not an excuse for us to

share the gospel less, or to act as if it is our job to pick and choose who "deserves" to be saved. Let me give you another example. We also know that none of us are perfect, and at one time or another give in to temptation and sin against God. "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Rom. 3:23)

But does that mean we can throw up our arms and say, "Oh well!?" Of course not! My overall point is this: a Christian is never to embrace the thought that we fight the fights we can win. We are to fight the fights that need fighting! In *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Atticus Finch says about courage, "It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do."

"But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Tim. 6:11-12)

God's Word makes it clear that some issues are matters of opinion, not doctrine, and as such are unimportant one way or the other. Concerning such we have instruction:

"Remind them to be

submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people." (Titus 3:1-2)

I am not talking about matters of liberty- those are left up to the conscience of the individual. No, when I say that we must fight the fights that need fighting, I mean the truth. The Bible. God's holy, inspired word. When it comes to speaking the truth, we are to do so in love, but never in a way where we would "pick our battles," whether by that it would mean we decide to write off certain individuals as "lost causes" while focusing more on others we would deem "more worthy," or meaning that we pick our battles in the sense of which Biblical principles to preach, being thus inconsistent and not teaching the whole truth of God's word. In either case, we are failing.

Having a defeatist mindset that we must sacrifice or compromise some aspects of being Christ-like because we will never be perfect as He was is ludicrous! Thinking that it is hopeless and so why even try will never bring anyone to Christ. Our motivation in life, to try at anything, is not to be because the odds are in our favor. Our motivation needs to be to please God. Remember that if we are in Christ, there is always hope!

Jarred Currence

Happy Moments,
Praise God.

Difficult Moments,
Seek God.

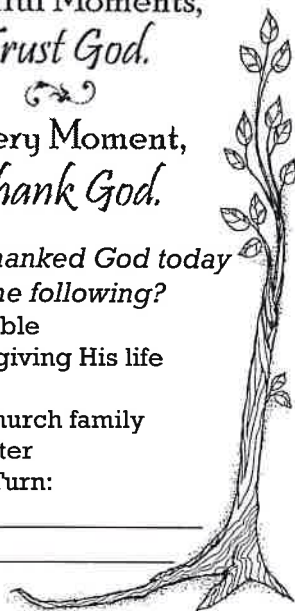
Quiet Moments,
Worship God.

Painful Moments,
Trust God.

Every Moment,
Thank God.

*Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life
for us
- Our church family
- Laughter
- Your Turn:



This bulletin is published by the
WELLSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST

92 Rose Cottage Lane
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422

<http://www.truthandright.org>



Like us on
FACEBOOK under
Wellsburg church
of Christ!

Follow us on **TWITTER**
[@wellsburgchurch](https://twitter.com/wellsburgchurch)



View us on **YOUTUBE**:
[https://www.youtube.com/
user/wellsburgchurch](https://www.youtube.com/user/wellsburgchurch)

BIBLE Trivia!

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. **Who said, "Will a man rob God?"**

- a) Jeremiah
- b) Malachi
- c) Haggai
- d) Obadiah

2. **According to Jesus, what would a loveless father give a child who asked for an egg?**

- a) A beating with a rod
- b) A rotten egg
- c) A scorpion
- d) Nothing

3. **What gate of Jerusalem was rebuilt under Nehemiah's leadership?**

- a) The Water Gate
- b) The Sheep Gate
- c) The Beautiful Gate
- d) The Essene Gate

4. **Where did Jesus have a post-Resurrection fish dinner with seven of His disciples?**

- a) By the Mount of Olives
- b) By the Sea of Galilee
- c) By the Jordan River
- d) By Lake Tiberias

5. **Who fasted before leaving Babylonia for Jerusalem?**

- a) Zerubbaal
- b) Ezekiel
- c) Ezra
- d) Micah

6. **What gospel mentions Jesus miraculously passing through a crowd that intended to stone Him?**

- a) John
- b) Luke
- c) Matthew
- d) Mark

7. **Who said, "The grave is my house"?**

- a) Noah
- b) Elijah
- c) Lazarus
- d) Job

8. **In Revelation, what did the rider on the white horse bring to the earth?**

- a) Vengeance
- b) Dread
- c) Conquest
- d) Jubilation

9. **Which psalm is a lament of the exiles in Babylon?**

- a) Psalm 137
- b) Psalm 119
- c) Psalm 124
- d) Psalm 142

10. **This traveling companion of Paul was considered a prophet.**

- a) Luke
- b) Silas
- c) Aquila
- d) Timothy

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES:

- 1) D, Reference: 1 Kings 12:1-14
- 2) B, Reference: Acts 18:24-28
- 3) A, Reference: Exodus 28:14
- 4) C, Reference: John 10:35
- 5) A, Reference: 1 Samuel 4:16

- 6) B, Reference: Luke 12:33
- 7) C, Reference: Isaiah 53:6
- 8) A, Reference: Matthew 4:12-13
- 9) D, Reference: 2 Samuel 2:4
- 10) C, Reference: Acts 2:17