

TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

WELLSBURG
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 12 Issue 45

November 5, 2017

GOD IS OUR STRENGTH

Amalek was a very wicked nation. In Deuteronomy 25:17-19, Moses reminds Israel of that fact. "Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God." They actually snuck up behind Israel to pick off the weak and struggling! How could Israel, being weary from their travels, deal with such a foe?

Israel faced many dangers as they made their exodus from Egypt and yet God met their every need. When they were chased by Pharaoh and his army, God put a pillar of fire and cloud between them (Ex. 14:19-24), when their escape route was blocked by the Red Sea, He parted the waters, when Egypt pursued, God destroyed them by closing the waters upon them, and when they hungered and thirsted, God provided manna and water from

the rock (Ex. 16-17). Is it any wonder that when Israel was faced with war against this nation, Moses gave no record of fear on their part? To Joshua Moses simply states, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." When Moses raised the staff of God, Israel began winning the battle and when he lowered his hand they began to lose. Only God could cause Israel to be victorious by such means! However, there was one problem; Moses' arms were growing weak from holding up his arms all day. He quickly realized that his strength alone was not enough. So his brother Aaron and Hur set a stone under him and held his arms for him, one on one side and one on the other. They kept Moses' arms steady until it was night. Amalek was defeated and Moses built an altar and called it "The Lord is My Banner."

In our lives today we, like Israel,

are on a journey. As Christians we are making our exodus out of the slavery of sin and heading toward eternal life with Christ our Lord (Rom. 6:5-11). We too face an enemy. Satan threatens our very souls. Peter tells us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Remember the unfair tactics of Amalek? Sometimes Satan attacks head on, but many times he creeps up behind and picks off those who are weak and struggling with their faith. How do we protect ourselves from becoming easy prey to Satan? In Ephesians 6:10-18, Paul writes, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace, in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the

helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance..." Let's take just a quick look at each piece of armor. "Gird your loins with Truth" carries with it the idea of being ready for action, letting God's word be our light. Luke 12:35 says, "Be dressed in readiness and keep your lamps lit." Putting on the breastplate of righteousness gives us the idea of practicing righteousness or doing good deeds. When we are behaving in a godly fashion then we are going to be more like God and less likely to do evil. To "shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace" is to be actively going out and teaching others about Christ. We are also told to take up the shield of faith, knowing that God will provide a way and take care of us through our difficult times. This will help us keep from being weighed down by discouragement and sin. The helmet of salvation represents the hope that we have that someday we will be with Christ, safe from a world of struggles. Keeping this always in mind is so vitally important. Lastly, the sword of the Spirit, or the word of God, will drive out temptation and sin. When we allow our minds to be transformed by the study of God's word, we are less likely to be tempted to live as the world does (Rom. 12:1-2).

Paul follows up his list of armor by

saying, "Pray at all times," and "Be on the alert." Moses realized that when he raised the Staff of the Lord, a symbol of the power of God, incredible things happened. We too have something that we raise—our prayers to God. We can also see amazing things happen when we do this. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you." (Matt. 7:7)

God also gave us the church. Moses had the support of Aaron and Hur when they held his arms. We who are Christians are commanded to help our brethren. "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Also, "Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification" (Rom. 15:1-2). We are not alone in our battle. We could not survive alone!

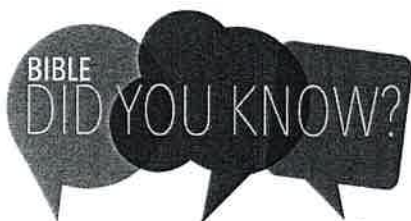
When the battle against Amalek was won, Moses erected an altar to God and named it, "The Lord is My Banner". A banner (like a flag) is a symbol of who someone is, who they represent, or who they are fighting for. In history when soldiers went into battle they would have a flag bearer. It was so important for an army to show others who they fought for that if the one carrying the flag was killed, another would drop his weapon and take up the banner. Let's follow this example. Let's declare who we belong to by the

way we live and speak and let God fight our battles. Just shortly before Israel faced Amalek, they faced the armies of Pharaoh and a great sea that stretched formidably before them and Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish today [...] the Lord will fight for you while you keep silent." Let God fight for you. God is our strength.

In conclusion, let's consider this: Any time God's people required something of Him, he gave to them most liberally, but he also required something of them. Read Exodus 14-17 for example. What is it that God required each time?

Obedience. We can have the Strength that God offers us, we can have the salvation that Christ died to grant us, but God requires our obedience.

— Daniel Ruegg



When the Lord proves His strength and presence in our lives, He becomes dismayed when we display a lack of faith. "I told Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not do it." And He answered them and said, 'O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me!'"

Mk. 9:18-19



DIRECTIONS: Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

1) Talking Up the Church

1 Thess. 1:8 *"For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything."*

It is always a blessing when we are able to begin the start of a new week regaining the proper perspective about our life and purpose when we worship God. Perhaps feeling the weight of a long and grinding week behind us and trying to find the strength to face another week filled with mounting tasks and responsibilities, it is refreshing to lay all of our burdens down at the feet of the Lord and worship Him in Spirit and Truth. While we enjoy this great blessing, let us make the effort each Monday this month to relay something refreshing and positive we enjoyed in our worship the previous Sunday on social media, a text or in passing conversation to another. Let's talk up the blessings we enjoy as a church and let others know what would be gained by joining us!

2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

Revelation 22:12-21

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.' Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. 'I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.' The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."