



The G.E.M.

Volume 2 Edition 7

The Grace Electronic Magazine

July 2008

TIME TO STAND

We are challenged on a daily basis to stand for the faith that we have. We are constantly faced with different beliefs and teachings that challenge our own. In this month's edition of *The G.E.M.* we continue to address issue of truth, this time focussing on some practical aspects.

This month's devotional, and the main article on page 3, are a challenge to us not to give up, but to stand firm in the battle for truth.

We have a couple of exciting promotional products featured in this month's issue that are highly recommended for anyone's library.

Shekel Card holders remember that you will receive double points when you purchase any product featured in *The G.E.M.* during the month of July.

Staying in the 10/40 Window, our *Missions Spotlight* this month goes to the tiny country on the east coast of Africa, Guinea.

There is another crossword puzzle for you on our *Fun Page*, as well as another great recipe from the 10/40 Window.

Be sure to check out our website. We now have an online-shopping trolley system to assist you in purchasing any of our featured products.

Can't come to the store?

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Until next time, we pray for God's richest blessings in your life as you fight the good fight of faith. †



A GOOD SOLDIER

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs - he wants to please his commanding officer. - 2 Timothy 2:3,4

Any commanding officer will tell you that courage and self-discipline are the two most important qualities that a soldier needs. It has been said that the measure of a good soldier is not how much he can "give," but how much he can "take," in other words, how much he can endure, before he gives up.

It is a sad fact that in the twenty first century, many of God's people simply do not want to be soldiers. There is the feeling that the battle for the truth can be won by "love." But this is a direct violation of God's specific order to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:12). Believe it or not, there are even some who find fault with those who do stand as soldiers for Christ and wield the Sword of the Spirit in defence of the truth.

However, if God did not wish for us to be soldiers in the fight of the faith, why did He command us to be such in the first place? Why does He urge us to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power," and also instruct us to "put on the full armour of God" in Ephesians 6:10-20? Why did He go into extreme detail in naming each piece separately, in a particular order, so that not one piece might be missing? And why does He bid us to take the "sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God"?

Does He mean that we should put our sword in the scabbard and go on dress parade, to show how grand we look in uniform? No! We are to wield the Sword of the Spirit, to

"stand against the devil's schemes", and to keep standing until, once we "have done everything," we are still "to stand."

Four times in this passage the word "stand" is used, and God has provided a complete armour so that we may be enabled to stand.

But there is more. Paul is clear in his insistence that a "good soldier" is careful not to be distracted by the affairs of this life, in order that he may please his commanding officer (Verse 4).

By the time of Paul, the Roman empire had long since secured its dominance, but to maintain her borders was a continuing task. Military forces were everywhere, and rapid troop movements were made possible by the famous Roman road system. Soldiers were especially concentrated at the more distant borders, where insurrections were especially likely. But this meant extensive training. There could be no weakening of resolve, skill, or strength. Daily discipline was enforced; diversions were not tolerated.

Serving Christ is equally hard work that requires total commitment. It does not matter how great the power of the Holy Spirit is, we as Christians are to be wholly and personally dedicated to the Lord and His work. If we are not, the channels through which the Holy Spirit works, we as individuals and as the church, will be blocked and useless. The fact that Paul urges Timothy in verse 7 to "reflect on what I am saying" and that he needs God-given "insight" into it, shows that these teachings require more than superficial assent.

What a lesson for all of us who have been bought with the precious blood of Christ! To be "good soldiers" for His sake, being single-minded, and not distracted by the affairs of this life. †

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SHOP TRADING HOURS:

Monday – Friday:

9am – 5pm

Saturday:

9am – 2pm

Closed Sundays and some Public Holidays

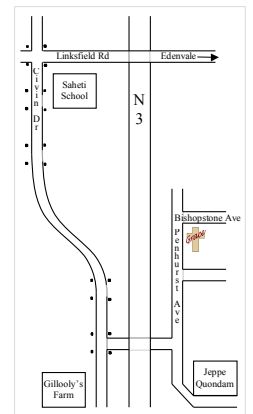
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Directions: From the N3, take the Linksfield Rd off ramp. Turn right up hill. Stay in left lane. Turn left into Civin Dr. At 4th set of lights, turn left under bridge. At t-junction turn left. Through the boom. We are ± 200m on the right hand side. Entrance is in Penhurst Ave.



MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

République de Guinée Republic of Guinea

Capital: Conakry



Official Language:
French

Currency: Guinean franc

Population: 9,402,000

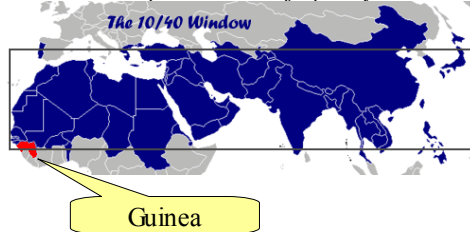
Government: Republic

Guinea is a country in West Africa, formerly known as French Guinea. Guinea's territory has a curved shape, with its base at the Atlantic Ocean, inland to the east, and turning south. The base borders Guinea-Bissau and Senegal to the north, and Mali to the north and north-east; the inland part borders Côte d'Ivoire to the south-east, Liberia to the south, and Sierra Leone to the west of the southern tip. Its water sources include the Niger, Senegal, and Gambia rivers. Guinea is sometimes called Guinea-Conakry to differentiate it from the neighbouring Guinea-Bissau.

Richly endowed with minerals, Guinea possesses over 25 billion metric tons of bauxite – and perhaps up to one-half of the world's reserves. In addition, Guinea's mineral wealth includes more than 4-billion tons of high-grade iron ore, significant diamond and gold deposits, and undetermined quantities of uranium. Most vehicles in Guinea are some 20 years old, and cabs are mostly any 4-door vehicle which the owner has designated as for hire. Locals, nearly entirely without vehicles of their own, rely upon these taxis and small buses to take them around town and across the country. Horses and donkeys are also found pulling carts, primarily to transport construction materials.

About 85% of all Guineans, particularly the Fulani and Malinké, are Muslims; about 7% are Christian; 3% follow various other Christian cults; and most of the remaining 5% practice traditional African religions. Most Muslims belong to the Sunni sect, and practices, particularly public prayers and the prescribed fasts, are often combined with animist beliefs and ceremonies. Christian missions were established in the 19th century, but converts have been few. Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Baptists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists, and various other evangelical churches are active in Guinea. There are a small number of Baha'is, Hindus, Buddhists, and observers of traditional Chinese religions.

Extracted from Wikipedia.com and Encyclopedia of the Nations



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DIARY OF EVENTS

Louie Giglio's Passion Tour

9 August 2008, Gallagher Estate
Tickets now on sale for R100 each. See our site for details.

PlanetShakers SA Tour

September 2008
Full details to follow when available.

Parachute Band SA Tour

October 2008
Full details to follow when available.

Christian Business Expo

October 2008
For more information visit: www.christianexpo.co.za

Top 25 Must Reads

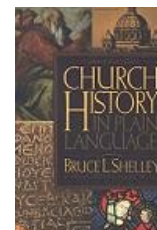
Church History in Plain Language by Dr Bruce L. Shelley

The Story of the Church for Today's Readers

Dr Bruce Shelley makes church history come alive in this classic book that has not only become the first choice of many laypeople and church leaders, but also the standard text in many college and seminary classrooms around the world.

Church History in Plain Language reads almost like a story that makes history easy to follow and retain.

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THE NECESSITY OF THEOLOGY

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. - 1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV)

We all know that we are supposed to be careful about how we live. However, we tend to forget that it is equally important to be careful about what we believe. We often go through life thinking that theology is not really necessary. We make sure that we live a good life, love others and perform acts of service as commanded by Jesus and the apostles. But in light of the verse above, this is not enough.

We only need to look at the life of Paul to see that this principle is wrong. Paul knew from experience how easy it can be to get false ideas about God. In fact, before he became a Christian, he was so disoriented toward God that he was killing and imprisoning Christians. To make matters worse, he thought that doing this would please God! He had much in terms of behaviour and credentials to believe he was living life as God intended (see Philippians 3:1-11).

This explains why Paul urged young Timothy in the above verse to be careful about not only how he lived his life, but also the views he held about God. What Timothy believed about God would affect not only his own life but also the lives of those he was teaching – for better or worse.

Our Theology Directs Us

On October 31, 1983 Korean airlines Flight 007 departed from Anchorage, Alaska, for a direct flight to Seoul, Korea. Unknown to the crew, the computer flight navigation system contained a routing error of one-and-a-half degrees. The error was not noticeable at take off, or even one hundred miles from the point of departure, but eventually the 747 had strayed into Soviet airspace. Soviet radar picked up the airliner and fighter jets were sent to intercept. Over mainland Russia, the jets shot down Flight 007, and all on board lost their lives. This tragedy had occurred because of being slightly off course to begin with.

Spiritually we can come to a tragic end ourselves by swerving off the course of doctrine that is consistent with the doctrine that is taught in Scripture.

Paul says to watch our lives and doctrine closely. This does not mean to give ourselves a slap on the wrist when we do something wrong or when we follow the teachings of the false prophets, but to earnestly commit ourselves to ensuring that we live lives and follow doctrine that is wholly based on the Truth of God's Word.

False Doctrines

In the verses before our verse, Paul gives some examples of the false teachings to be

on the lookout for. Firstly, they are people who *"abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits."* The implication here is not simply that they have fallen away from the doctrines of the Faith, but have actually renounced it, and are following the doctrines of the evil spirits. Their teachings can be summed up to say that they are calling what is good, evil and what is evil, good.

Secondly, Paul points out that these people are *"hypocritical liars"* that have two characteristics: what they teach is false and their consciences have been seared to the point of insensibility.

Thirdly, these teachings are *"godless myths and old wives tales."* In the Greek this literally reads *"profane and silly myths."* Profane is anything that is irreverent to anything that is sacred and myth is a tale that teaches. Therefore Paul is instructing Timothy to avoid those teachings that profane the doctrines of Scripture and those silly tales that are trying to teach things that are not true. Examples of these are that there are many ways to heaven and evolution.

Scattered in these verses, Paul shows the important doctrines that we need to take hold of and teach: *"everything God created is good," "godliness"* is of extreme importance, and to have *"hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men."*

It is clear throughout this passage that in everything that we read and hear, we need to ensure that we examine each teaching based on the Bible. We must not accept a belief just because someone claims it is true and quotes some Scripture verses to prove it. If we are not careful, we will accept falsehood as truth, and our faith will be weakened.

Theology from Scripture

Throughout this whole process, we must not allow theology to become a substitute for Scripture. This can be so easily done when we abandon the reading of the Bible to follow the teachings contained within a book or another person's teachings.

Instead we are to ensure that theology is derived from Scripture, the only source of true doctrine. Since Scripture is *"God-breathed"* (2 Timothy 3:16), and He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow (Hebrews 13:8), so too is the Word of God unchanging and infallible (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13). And if the Word of God never changes, so too our theology. How we teach it may change with time, but the message is to remain the same.

Our Challenge

Our challenge therefore is to come to a fuller knowledge and understanding of the teachings of Scripture, to apply them appropriately into our daily lives, and to teach others those doctrines and applications.

"Ignorance before God is not an excuse"

"We often go through life thinking that theology is not really necessary"

God has placed into our hands His complete written word (Colossians 1:25). He has given it to us in the form of building materials, complete with the instructions. It is therefore our responsibility to assemble and construct the *"building"* in accordance to the instructions given. If we do not read the instructions in the proper order or we do not understand them, then the *"building"* will not be in accordance to God's perfect plan (1 Corinthians 3:10-15). It is necessary to diligently study

God's Word, applying what we have learned to sort the materials into their proper order, then put together the principles described (2 Timothy 2:15) in order to have a *"building"* that is glorifying to God.

If we look at Scripture as though it originating from man, then we are left to come to our own conclusions based upon our preconceived ideas. God and life will therefore be viewed as meaningless. It is unfortunate that many have embraced and propagate this view. The results of its permeation into our society are evident (see Romans 1:21-32).

Without Scripture man is left wanting for answers and solutions to his problems. Many try to find the peace that they are looking for in pagan religions, in modern psychology, in themselves, and in various other sources, but each time they are led astray, not being satisfied. God offers us true hope and peace through the Scriptures. By studying the doctrines within we are better able to appropriate the grace, peace and mercy that God has freely given to us. The Scriptures even encourage us to study so that we may find the truths that God has for us (cf. 1 Timothy 4:13-16 and 2 Timothy 2:15).

Ignorance before God is not an excuse. The Scriptures were given for our learning and we are to study the doctrines of Scripture, allowing them to work in our hearts so that our actions become consistent with God's will.

Take ownership of your faith in God. Staying true to him is far too important. †



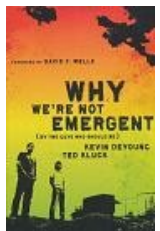
New Arrival

Why we're not Emergent

by Kevin deYoung & Ted Kluck

This book gives both a theological and on-the-street perspective that helps you examine the emerging church for yourself.

Provocative, yet playful, this book seeks to show you why being emergent is not the only, or even the best, way to be passionate about Jesus Christ.



R 160.00

10/40 RECIPE

PEANUT BALLS (Guinea)

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup crushed/finely chopped peanuts
- 1 cup butter/margarine, room temperature
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2¼ cups flour
- ½ cup powered sugar
- 36 whole peanuts for garnish

TO PREPARE:

1. Preheat oven to 190° celsius.
2. Blend ground peanuts and flour in mixing bowl.
3. In another mixing bowl, combine butter/margarine with powered sugar, using mixing spoon or blender. Mix until well blended.
4. Add vanilla and mix well.
5. Add peanut mixture to butter and sugar bowl and mix well.
6. Divide dough into ping-pong size balls and place side by side on baking tray, leaving a couple of centimetres between each. Garnish each ball with a peanut.
7. Bake in oven for about 10 minutes or until golden brown. Makes about 36 balls.

Recipe taken from the book *Recipes of the 10/40 Window*.



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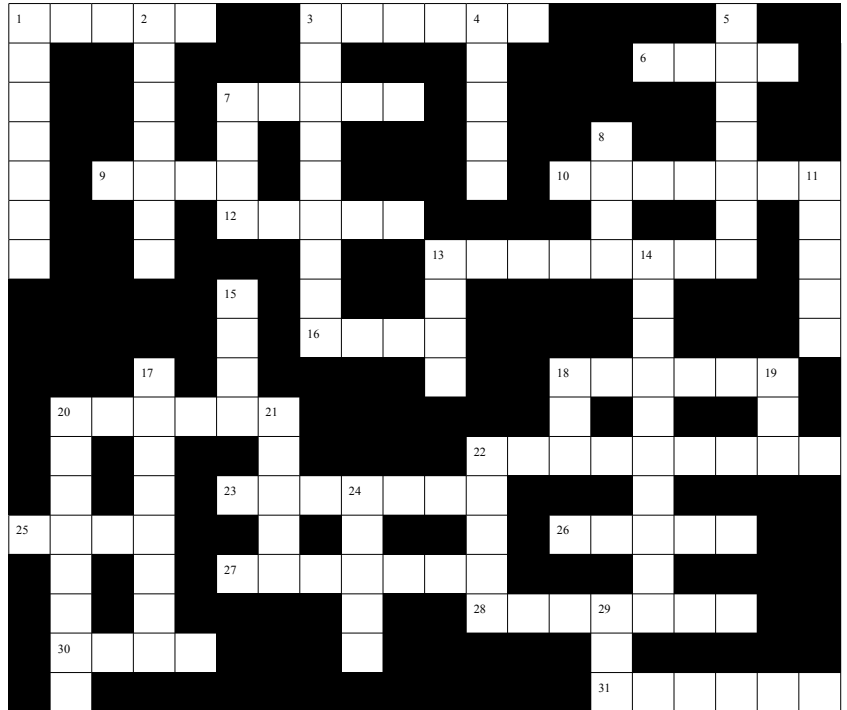
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STANDING IN THE TRUTH



ACROSS:

1. "For the time will come when men will not put up with ___ doctrine." (2 Tim. 4:3)
3. "encourage others by sound doctrine and ___ those who oppose it." (Tit. 1:9)
6. "Put on the ___ armor of God" (Eph. 6:11)
7. "I have fought the good ___" (2 Tim. 4:7)
9. "Be on your guard; stand ___ in the faith" (1 Cor. 16:13)
10. "Wild ___ stand on the barren heights and pant like jackals" (Jer. 14:6)
12. "Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an ___ of God." (Jam. 4:4)
13. The law was made for whatever "is ___ to the sound doctrine" (1 Tim. 1:9-10)
16. "Blessed is the man who does not ... sit in the ___ of mockers" (Psa. 1:1)
18. "Do not listen to the ___ you encourage them to have." (Jer. 29:8)
20. "take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming ___ of the evil one." (Eph. 6:16)
22. "continue to work out your salvation with fear and ___" (Phil. 2:12)
23. "Endure hardship with us like a good ___ of Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 2:3)
25. "in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of ___" (Col. 1:14)
26. "it is by ___ you stand firm." (2 Cor. 1:24)
27. "Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered ___ into your hands' (Jos. 6:2)
28. "Do not stand up for a bad cause, for he will do whatever he ___." (Ecc. 8:3)
30. "The Spirit searches all things, even the ___ things of God." (1 Cor. 2:10)
31. "to him who ___, the door will be opened." (Mat. 7:8)

NOTE: All verses taken from the New International Version.

DOWN:

1. "Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of ___." (Gal. 5:1)
2. "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let ___ move you." (1 Cor. 15:58)
3. "When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the ___ stand firm forever." (Pro. 10:25)
4. "You must ___ what is in accord with sound doctrine." (Tit. 2:1)
5. "Watch your life and doctrine ___." (1 Tim. 4:16)
7. "Lord, I have heard of your ___; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord." (Hab. 3:2)
8. "Here I am! I stand at the ___ and knock." (Rev. 3:20)
11. "then you will lift up your face without ___; you will stand firm and without fear." (Job 11:15)
13. "the ___ will be rebuilt on her ruins, and the palace will stand in its proper place." (Jer. 30:18)
14. "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your ___." (Amo. 5:21)
15. "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may ___ up in your salvation" (1 Pet. 2:2)
17. "For where your ___ is, there your heart will be also." (Luk. 12:34)
18. "Just as man is destined to ___ once, and after that to face judgment" (Heb. 9:27)
19. "He who has the ___ has life" (1 Joh. 5:12)
20. "Your ___ should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (Phi. 2:5)
21. David provided "all kinds of fine ___ and marble" for the temple. (1 Chr. 29:2)
22. "With your help I can advance against a ___ with my God I can scale a wall." (Psa. 18:29)
24. "By faith Jacob, when he was ___, blessed each of Joseph's sons" (Heb. 11:21)
29. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ___ or imagine" (Eph. 3:20)

Answers in next edition.

Last Month's Answers: Across: 1. God 3. World 5. Knowledge 8. Deny 10. Teach 13. Actions 15. Pillar 16. Lie 17. Grace 19. Sign 20. Bell 23. Desire 28. Rich 29. Continually 30. Light 32. Perished 33. Love 34. Spirit Down: 2. Deprived 4. Obeying 6. Out 7. Everyone 9. Tell 11. Christ 12. Holy 14. Free 15. Peace 18. Rejoices 21. Protect 22. Forth 24. Value 25. Buy 26. Know 27. Listens 29. Chosen 31. Book