

**SPIRITUAL WARFARE**  
**PART 4- “THE TRUTH AND THE LIAR”**  
**EPHESIANS 6:10-14, 17B**  
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As Christians we have been given the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. The Word of God is necessary and sufficient revelation of God’s truth about himself, the world, and us. We must be diligent in studying, knowing, and teaching the Truth of God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:15-4:2).

There are many counterfeits, false prophets, and antichrists that we must stand against armed with the Sword of the Spirit. Our enemies are not flesh and blood, but our enemy is the Liar, the Deceiver, the devil himself who we must stand against in the power of Christ. As Christians, we are called to take up Jesus’ armor, the armor of God, so that we can stand against the deceptive evil onslaught of our enemy the devil as we live in this world.

The decisive victory of the war has been won and Jesus has conquered, disarmed, and defeated our ancient foe, but we must endure until the final Day, standing strong in Jesus, and in the strength of His might.

We are the Church Militant, the Church on the March confessing the Truth of God’s Word, the faith once and for all delivered unto the saints of God.

**Belt of Truth/Sword of the Spirit**

In John 8:44, Our Lord describes the Devil as both a murderer and a liar. In our last sermon, we focused on the devil’s schemes as he is a murderer; today we will focus on the devil’s schemes as he is a LIAR - -and the “Father of all lies”.

It is sobering to think that when God himself came in the flesh, His church was under the influence of man’s teaching, which is another way to say that they were under the influence of the devil’s lies:

*“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” – Jesus to the Pharisees*

**As the Church, we must be watchful, sober, careful, faithful to God’s Word.**

**Remember that Romans 1:24-25 teaches all of us that by nature we “exchange the truth of God for a lie...”**

## **THE LIAR**

**“Beguiling” and “Bewitching” the Church- Counterfeit teachers and false teaching.**

**Throughout Church History we see this trend of TRUTH progressively being mixed with error:**

**The devil seeks to corrupt and pervert God’s true revelation:**

- Patriarchal Religion → Paganism (idolatry in Israel and the nations of the world; see Acts 17).
- Mosaic Religion → Pharaisaism (“Teachings and doctrines of men”)
- Christianity → Papal Religion/Romanism
- Protestantism → Rationalism/Enlightenment thinking/Liberalism/Individualism
  - Trust not mere reason- against Rationalism.
  - Trust not your opinion about what the Gospel is or should be- against Rationalism.
  - Trust not Liberalism that says: “A God without wrath brought men without sin into a Kingdom without judgment through a Christ without a cross.” Avoid any anti-supernatural notions that may pop up in your noggin.
  - Trust not yourself to study the Bible alone without help- “...Together with all the saints” (Eph. 3:18).

Historian William Cunningham speaks of the devil’s attempt to corrupt and pervert true religion throughout history making the Church subservient for his own purposes; he wrote:

“Under his agency the Patriarchal religion degenerated among the mass of mankind into Paganism; the Mosaic into that state of things which is described in Gospel history and which, for want of a better word, may be called Pharisaism; and the Christian religion into Popery.”- *Doctrines and Practices of the Church of Rome*, Quoted in F. Leahy’s *The Victory of the Lamb* (pg. 90).

**Why does the devil deceive the Church (Answer: See last sermon)**

### **How does the devil deceive the Church?**

This is the problem of the devil’s deception in opposition to God’s truth.

### **The Devil as “Counterfeit Lamb”- “The Great “Beguiler and Bewitcher”- The False Prophet**

**Not merely “the lie” against the truth of God- -BUT THE LIAR (he is a fallen angel; a personal evil opposed to God and His truth).**

*“Has God said?” (Gen. 3)  
Jesus calls him a liar “from the beginning” (John 8)*

**Revelation 13:11-12:** Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.<sup>12</sup> It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

- Appears to be a Lamb to the unregenerate.
- Speaks lies as false prophet “like a dragon”.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15:** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.<sup>14</sup> And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.<sup>15</sup> So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

- Satan not as merely revealed in “black magic”, the occult, Anton Levey and the Church of Satan, a guy in a long flowing black robe at your door with heavy metal music blaring from his radio...

- ...Rather, Satan in beautiful temples, nice, handsome, men with ties and their bicycles propped up against the tree outside as they seek to deceive you.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 20:28-32:** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God,<sup>1</sup> which he obtained with his own blood.<sup>2,29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce **wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;**<sup>30</sup> **and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.**<sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears.<sup>32</sup> And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- False prophets and wolves from within the boundaries of the church.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 7:15** "**Beware of false prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

- **Dragon like a lamb- counterfeit**
- **Satan disguised as an angel of light.**
- **False Prophets**
- **Outside and Inside the Church**
  - **Augustine: "There are many wolves within and many sheep without."**

**What are characteristics of the devil's teachings and influence?**

- **No Christ → Focus on other things.**
  - **False Christs- "Anti-Christ" (1 John 2:18ff)**

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 24:24** For **false christs and false prophets** will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 John 4:1** **Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.**<sup>2</sup> *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,<sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.*

- **"Doctrines of Demons" – Lies- Error**

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Timothy 4:1-3:** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, <sup>2</sup> through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, <sup>3</sup> who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

- Something as seemingly harmless as ascetism (1 Tim. 4:2-3).
- Dangerous legalism- denial of Christ's work; "nullifying" of the grace of God (Gal. 2:21); focusing on lesser important things.

- **Deny Gospel/Eclipse Gospel with other agendas**

<sup>ESV</sup> **Galatians 3:1** O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Galatians 1:6-9:** I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel - <sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

- Revelation of Angels with false gospel: Mohammed/Papal Romanism/Charles Taze Russell (Jehovah's Witnesses)/ Joseph Smith (Mormonism)

**The Evil One is Opposed to the Proclamation of the Gospel (as we sow wheat, so he sows the tares; he is also busy deceiving many):**

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 13:18-23:** "Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>1 22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

- **No Submission to God's Rule- rebellion and separatism of various kinds/cults, etc.**

*ESV 1 John 2:18-24: Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, **so now many antichrists have come.** Therefore we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> **They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.** <sup>20</sup> But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. <sup>1 21</sup> **I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.** <sup>22</sup> **Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.** <sup>23</sup> **No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.** <sup>24</sup> Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.*

- **Separated from the orthodox (correct) teaching of the Church (1 John 2:19)**
- **Denial of Incarnation (1 John 2:22-23)- Life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ “for us”!**
  - **Not enough to say Jesus was a “good teacher”- -a la C. S. Lewis: He was either “liar, lunatic, or Lord”- -he must be only one of these claiming what he did about Himself!**

**Answer: Confession of Truth with “All the Saints” (Eph. 3:19; Jude 3)**

*ESV Jude 1:3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.*

## **THE BELT OF TRUTH**

### **What do we need to face the LIAR?**

**The Belt of Truth/the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:14, 17)**

**Are you standing? Now be ready with truth.**

**Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)**

“Having fastened on the belt of truth...” (ESV) or “gird up your loins” (in another place); or “fasten on your belt”.

“Gird” is to emphasize **vigorous activity** (Luke 12:35, 37; 17:8).

To gird up one’s loins is to **PREPARE**.

**Illustration:** You are a warrior on the battlefield; you see the enemy and troops beginning to march toward you; closer, closer, closer, they come...

....closer, closer, toward you...Are you sleeping? Are you playing cards? Are you busy with other “important things in your life”?

NO! Your entire body gets ready; you prepare your soul; you prepare your clothing for action. You put on your “game face”-war paint; you unfurl your banners; you scream with your best “rebel yell” and you get ready for war!

## **THIS MEANS WAR!!!!!!**

**What does this mean?**

**Be ready with the truth! Be always prepared to learn the truth, to know the truth, to love the truth, to live the truth, to more and more seek the truth.**

As the Apostle Peter says:

*ESV 1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

- Be Bereans (Acts 17:11)- Search the Scriptures to know more about God and yourself.
- Love the truth (seek daily for God to grant you a love of the truth).

### **THE TRUTH**

Pilate asked our Lord “What is truth?”

## **Revealed truth from God**

**The Bible- Truth revealed in the Bible to us.**

### **The Bible- “God-breathed out” to us (2 Tim. 3:16)**

*<sup>ESV</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work...*

### **The Bible- Written by the Spirit of Truth (John 16:13)**

*<sup>ESV</sup> John 16:13-14: When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

## **Objective truth to us**

- Not created
- Not constructed
- Not merely feelings

Some say: “Truth is only what one believes or makes up for herself”; “Truth is a power grab- -an attempt to enslave others”; “There is no exclusive truth”; “Use your feelings, Luke; empty your mind” says Yoda; “Let conscience be your guide,” says sweet Jiminy Cricket.

But these are all deceptive lies- -they do not get us closer to the truth!

The Bible is objective...

- Truth about God
- Truth about Ourselves
- Truth about the Gospel
- Truth to expose all falsehood and wrong ways of thinking

### **Truth to Guide us: “As a lamp to our feet.”**

Illustration: “Lamp of the body”: If whole eye is full of light, then the body will be full of light.

If whole eye of mind and understanding’s eye be full of light/God’s truth, the whole body will be full of light.

Psalm 36:9: “In your light do we see light.”

Jesus is the Word of God, the Truth, the Light.

If we understand and are guided by God's truth, then we will be like him in our life.

When Jesus taught, he often started his teaching with "Truly, Truly, I say to you..." Or "Amen, Amen..." etc emphasizing HIS authority and the objective truth of His claims.

## **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT: The belt of the warrior holds the sword!**

### **The Belt: The Truth (objectively revealed by God to us)**

### **The Sword: The Use of the Truth as both Offensive and Defensive.**

- **Necessary- Warrior needs a sword; Christian needs his Bible! A ship's captain without a map (and/or navigation system); a scholar without a book; you cannot imagine a warrior without a sword, nor a Christian without His Bible!**
  - "All that you need for life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3-4).
- **Both Defensive and Offensive: Sword can be used to keep the enemy away as well as defending oneself from deception and harm:**
  - **Defensive: As Jesus used the Word of God: "Man shall not live on bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4).**
    - Example of first temptation of Jesus in wilderness: "Turn stones into bread..." the temptation was designed to turn something good into something bad for Jesus at that moment.
    - **What were Jesus' priorities?** Would he obey God and continue to submit to him, or to gratify his own desires? God's will or self-gratification? Isn't this our temptation each and every day of our lives? We are torn

between doing two good things: one is important and one is not so important, but both are good.

- Insightful into how we need the truth of God’s Word to defend us as well.
- **Offensive: Teaching the Church the truth of God’s Word from youth to full maturity.**
  - **Remember this was the reason why the Resurrected-Ascended Christ gave gifts to His church? (Eph. 4:11-16)**
  - **“...So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”**
  - As we grow, we grow more offensive, or go on the offensive as we march against the gates of hell and the lies of the devil in this world.
- **“...Of the Spirit”/ the Word written by the Spirit; made effective by the Spirit:**

**“...Of the Spirit” as in “Sword of the Spirit” highlights for us:**

- **The Spirit of God as Author of the Word of God**
- **The Spirit of God as Interpreter and Illuminator of the Word of God**
- **The Spirit’s power and efficacy to regenerate dead people (Eph. 2:1-3), and make them mature in Jesus.**

Because it is “of the Spirit” the Sword, the Word of God is most essential to the doctrine and life of the Church:

The Ephesians (and all Christians) come to Christ only through the Spirit working through the Word:

*ESV* **Ephesians 1:13** *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit...*

### **How does the Word of God destroy the devil's work?**

- The Word frees the captives
- The Word teaches truth and counters lies
- The Word proclaims Jesus Christ in His life, death, resurrection and ascension.
- “The Word” (rhema, Gk.) refers primarily to the “speaking forth” or “proclamation” or the truth of God’s Word.

### **The Apostle Paul’s advice to Timothy (and to us) concerning the Word of God and Teaching in the Church:**

- **“Don’t change a thing! From childhood you’ve known the Scriptures to make you wise unto salvation” (2 Tim. 3:15-17).**

*ESV* **2 Timothy 3:14-15** *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it<sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

**Biblical Truth: Confession with the faithful before you no matter what your age (see Eph. 3:18).**

- **Guard the good deposit” (2 Tim. 1:13-14)**

*ESV* **2 Timothy 1:13-14** *Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.<sup>14</sup> By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.*

**Biblical Truth: Word is precious (like jewels); let it be your “precious”!**

- **“Preach the Word” (2 Tim. 4:1-3)**

*ESV* **2 Timothy 4:1-2** *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

**Biblical Truth: Focus on the proclamation of Christ above all else! Not merely your own ideas, notions, pet doctrines (today so many in the name of Christ are merely giving good advice but have not Christ!).**

- **“Be devoted to the Word because of its great importance in the life of the Church!” (1 Tim. 4:13)**

*ESV* **1 Timothy 4:13, 16** *Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching...<sup>16</sup> Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

**Biblical Truth: Devote yourself to God’s Word.**

- **“Don’t follow the crowd and what is popular and what everyone is doing” (2 Tim. 4:3-4).**

*ESV* **2 Timothy 4:3-4** *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,<sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

**Biblical Truth: Don’t ever follow the crowd and what is popular! God’s truth of salvation doesn’t sell- -and it should never be sold (it is free!).**

- **“All you need for life and godliness- -all that your hearers need is in the Word” (1 Tim. 4:13, 16)**

*ESV* **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work...*

**As God’s people we are to “meditate” upon the Lord and “delight ourselves” in God’s Word.**

**Find more of the Father, more of Christ, more of the Spirit through:**

***Meditation/Contemplation/Application of the Scriptures- -DAILY! Then believe God’s Word, pray it, and live it by His strength, power and grace!***

***Not “emptying your mind” in meditation like Eastern mystics and religions teach.***

***But “filling your mind” with Scripture, with the truth of Scripture, with the very fullness of Jesus Christ and of God:***

*ESV Ephesians 3:19* and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

*ESV Romans 12:2* Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

*ESV 2 Corinthians 10:4-5:* For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

*ESV Colossians 3:16* Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

***Psalm 1:2: “...His delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.***

- Fruitful
- Faithful
- Fulfilled

All that you are searching for in this life is found in JESUS CHRIST. The Word of God teaches you this, shows you this, tells you this, as a means of grace.

**Children/New converts:** Memorize catechism and scripture. Catechism is the truth of Scripture, but know your scriptures. Learn your faith; know what you believe and why you believe it. Talk about it, discuss it with stronger, more mature believers. Memorize the Scriptures.

**Teen-Student:** Make the truth your own—seek the LORD for more love of His word and truth. You are especially prone to error and deception at this time period in your life!

- Relativism/Postmodern thought and times: Be ready to know what you believe and why you believe it.
- Exclusivity- All are exclusive in their claims; if someone at your college says to you that I think all ways to God are true; they have just left you out; they have just prevented a confessional Christian who lives by the truth to be in their group; they are exclusive and make exclusive claims, too! Not “let’s all get along” BUT “let’s all submit to God’s truth!”
- No objectivity? You must be objective in order to assert this. What objectivity is the real question? Usually it is the person’s own subjective experiences and/or authority to rule over God’s Word.

**Adults/Parents:** You hold to the Word of Truth, believe it, live it, do it by God’s grace. Let the Word grip you more and more. Enjoy the learning of it in order that you might be more mastered by it. Don’t only stand for the truth, but live it out by God’s grace before a dying world.

**Mature:** You hold to the truth, does the word of truth hold onto you? Is it more precious to you than when you first began your Christian walk and seeking to know the truth? You have great advantages: You know the word, plus you have experience, and more assurance normally; you have much to teach we who are younger in the Lord.

For those who have been Christians for some years, keep the truth constantly in your mind; continue to renew your mind with God’s Word.

Let God contradict your thinking through His Word. Let Him be your guide.

**FIND JESUS IN THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD. FIND YOUR HELP IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE AND STORM. YOUR FRIEND, TEACHER AND GUIDE IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION AND ERRORS.**

**DON’T SEEK TO MASTER THE SCRIPTURES; ASK GOD TO ALLOW THE SCRIPTURES TO MASTER YOU IN LIFE AND DOCTRINE.**

**SEEK THE SPIRIT TO BE DISCERNING.**

**PRAY THAT GOD WOULD MAKE YOU MORE DISCERNING.**

**MEDITATE UPON THE WORD...FILL YOURSELF UP...LET THIS INFORM ALL THAT YOU DO AND THINK!**

**Two Particular Attacks against the Word of God today**

- Authorities in towns and cities preventing Christians from making the Gospel known.
- Persuading Christians to be distracted: side-issues and conflicts to take away our attention from the most important message and person; fascinated by distorted teaching in the church (popular conferences, movements, books, etc. Things that side-track us from our main gospel mission).

**Jesus as the Truth and the Word**

- Jesus is full of grace and truth (John 1:14)
- “Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17)
- Jesus is the “Word made flesh” (1:14)- Jesus is the incarnate God in the flesh to reveal truth, to destroy BOTH THE LIAR AND THE LIE.
- Even to Jesus’ enemies he spoke the truth about God without caring about what people thought (or “looking at men’s faces”)- Matt. 22:16
- Jesus is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE...
- In order for you to be given His precious sword, he had to come under the sword of God’s judgment on your behalf; he was cut off from the throne and access to God as he was condemned in your place, so that you might boldly come unto the Throne of Grace through His blood to find help, strength, hope and encouragement in your time of need!
- *What wondrous love is this, O my soul...What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul??*

**Let us stand; let us wrestle by His strength and might!**

“It is written”

“They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of their testimony...”

Jesus’ Name is the very Word of God! Let us remember this, our Great Conquering Hero!

***ESV Revelation 19:13, 15: He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God...From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.***

Behold your General! The Captain of your salvation- - the Author and Perfector of your faith—the Command of the LORD’s Army –the King of kings and Lord of lords –  
BEHOLD HIM AS HE CROSSES THE FIELD IN FRONT OF YOU!

Now march behind him in His armor, united by faith to Him- -conquer, overcome, persevere, and stand firm.

Let nothing move you; always give yourself to the work of the Lord; knowing that your labor in the Lord is never in vain! (1 Cor. 15:58).

CRB