

Stand

Paul wrote that we will all stand before God in judgment (Rom. 14:10). In verse 12, the apostle describes what we do there: "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." It is plain that how we stand before God in judgment depends upon how we stand in life. The Bible has a lot to say about standing, all of which culminates in Eph. 6:13. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand." The word stand appears over 250 times in the Bible, the following three points represent on a tiny portion of what God has to say about it.

We must **stand up!** In Neh. 9, the people were assembled together with fasting, sackclothes, and earth upon them, all signs of repentance. As they stood in their place, they read from the book of the law (v. 3). Then in verse 5 certain ones of the Levites said to them, "Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever..."

In our day of increasing doubt and disbelief in the very existence of God, Christians must be willing to stand up and declare their faith in Him both by their words and deeds. It is often said of this person or that person, "He does not wear his religion upon his sleeve." If by that it is meant, he hides it, shame on him! After the children of Israel had sinned by making the golden calf and worshipping it, Moses asked the simple question, "Who is on the Lord's side?" The Levites gathered with Moses, but of those who did not, apparently the leaders of the rebellion against God, three thousand lost their lives. We sing the song "Stand up, Stand up, For Jesus." Standing up for Jesus means others have to know we are standing else we are not standing at all, nor are we fulfilling the obligation to teach the gospel to all.

Back to Ephesians 6. In verse 11 the apostle wrote: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand against** the wiles of the devil." The Psalmist also wrote: Who will rise up for me against the evil doers? Or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity. God's people are to stand for truth, but they have not fully done that unless they stand against sin, evildoers, error, and iniquity. Let us make no mistake, to stand against something is just as active an operation as standing for something. Oppose is an active verb!

Sometimes it may seem difficult to stand. When it does, remember two things: first, God stands before those who will obey Him. God said to Moses, "Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel" (Exo. 17:6). Moses struck the rock, but God produced the water. If we will do our part, God will stand with us. After telling Timothy that at his first answer against Alexander the coppersmith, "no man stood with me," no doubt for the very purpose of encouraging the young preacher, he went on to say, "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me: that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion" (2 Tim. 4:17). In addition to the presence and strength of the Lord, we have one another. The prophet Isaiah wrote: "He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? Let us **stand together**: who is my adversary? Let him come near me. Sometimes we may feel like Elijah did, that everyone else has bowed the knee to Baal as it were, but no, there is a remnant of the faithful by whom we may be encouraged and who can be encouraged by us. You are not alone.

As the people of God we must stand up and be counted. We must stand against evil as well as stand for that which is right. We can take heart in the fact that we do not stand alone. The important thing, as the apostle Paul wrote: "And having done all to stand!

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