

MADRID CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

2017 ANNUAL THEME:

PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD



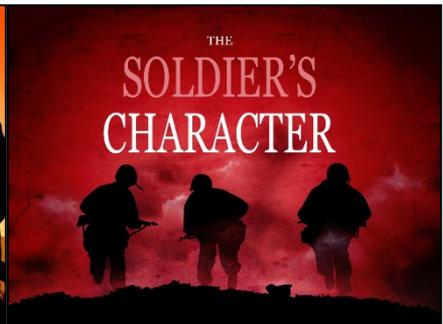
EPHESIANS 6:10-20

"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL" (EPHESIANS 6:11).

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9AM

11AM



"NO SOLDIER GETS ENTANGLED IN CIVILIAN PURSUITS, SINCE HIS AIM IS TO PLEASE THE ONE WHO ENLISTED HIM" (2 TIMOTHY 2:4).

THE SERIOUSNESS OF TURNING FROM GOD

BY DOY MOYER

We are aware (or ought to be) of the passages teaching that those who were enlightened and then turn away from the Lord are worse off than before. Re-read, for example, Luke 14:25-33, Hebrews 6:4-6, and 2 Peter 2:20-22. But I want to think about another angle for a moment.

When we become Christians, we are committing ourselves to the Lord. This is a lifetime commitment, not a “let’s see how it goes and then we’ll decide later” type of commitment. Our commitment to the Lord is likened to marriage (cf. Eph. 5:22-33). We serve the Lord, knowing full well that our “yes” means yes (Matt. 5:37; Jas. 5:12). When we decide to serve God, we enter into a covenant, we have made a vow, a commitment, and we have given our word, knowing we are to pay what we vow (Eccl. 5:4-5). When we who have made such a commitment turn away from the Lord, then our integrity has been lost. We are no longer people of our word. We are liars and cheats. We cannot be trusted. After all, if we will go back on the most significant commitment we ever make, then what keeps us true to other commitments? Does that sound harsh? Perhaps so. But it’s the truth. Turning away from God after having become a Christian means that the most serious of all vows and commitments has been cast aside. How else can we see it? We have renounced sainthood for becoming scoundrels who can only expect judgment.

Please understand that I’m not talking about sinning while still striving to be true to God, as per 1 John 1:7-9 and 2:1-2. I’m talking about throwing it all away, casting aside our confidence, trampling underfoot the Son of God, regarding the blood of the covenant unclean, and insulting the Spirit of grace (Heb. 10:26-29, 35-36). When we are tempted to give it up completely, think about this. If we take covenant seriously; if we mean what we say; if our vows are worth anything ... then we need to return once again to our Lord and seek His face. If we are people of our word, we will not quit. We may stumble, crawl, scratch, and claw through difficulties, but by the help and grace of God, we will not quit!

“But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul” (Heb. 10:39).

Thoughts from Jason: This article shows us how serious it is to turn away from the most important commitment that we have made in our lives. Whenever we turn away from God, we are indeed showing that our promises/word cannot be trusted. This shows us that whenever one turns away from their commitment to God, there are always other sins involved. We may tend to focus just on someone “not coming to services” as the “great sin” they are guilty of, but this is not the case.

These thoughts apply beyond our relationship to God. They also apply to the vows that we make in marriage. Scripture clearly teaches that divorce is a sin:

“‘For I hate divorce,’ says the Lord” (Malachi 2:16).

When someone divorces their spouse, they are doing that which God hates. It is wrong! But the ‘sin of divorce’ is not the ONLY sin that is involved. One who divorces their spouse is breaking the vows that they made on their wedding day, which included loving their spouse no matter the physical circumstances. When someone divorces their spouse, they are showing that their word cannot be trusted. They are showing that they are a liar. This is a sobering fact, and it should be one we try to remember as we interact with our spouses each day! We so often, out of selfishness (another sin that is involved), want our spouses to only do what “makes us happy,” and if they don’t do this, then we often can fall prey to breaking the vows that we made to them by sinning against our spouse. Breaking our promises is a serious matter with terrible consequences for all who are involved (you, your spouse, your children, etc), and there are terrible consequences especially for our family when someone commits the sin of breaking one’s covenant with their spouse through divorce. But ultimately the worst part of willfully committing the sins of lying, selfishness, and divorce (this is not an exhaustive list of the sins involved) is that it often leads one’s heart to become hardened and to give up on the commitment one has made to the Lord also. Souls are on the line. The Lord says this regarding all liars:

“...their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

We need to encourage one another to be faithful to our commitments. The God of truth desires His people to be faithful and to keep their word just as He does.

VISITORS:

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY!

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or contact us using the information below. We would be happy to schedule a time to sit down with you and to answer your questions from God's word. If there is anything we can do to help you spiritually, please let us know. We are here to serve!

Call or text Jason @ 412-999-4837 or email him @
preacher@madridchurch.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 01/29 - INVITE SUNDAY!
- 02/05 - Song Service
- 02/05 - Super Bowl party @ Kokemiller's house
- 02/26 - Shed potluck after services @ Larry & Franki's
- 03/05 - Song Service
- 03/19-03/22 - Gospel Meeting w/ Mike Richardson (Resisting the Attractions of the World)
- 03/26 - Shed potluck after services @ Larry & Franki's

If there is an event you are planning at your house that you want put in the bulletin, let Jason know!

DAILY READING:

- 01/23 – Exo 19-21; Psalm 23
- 01/24 – Exo 22-24; Psalm 24
- 01/25 – Exo 25-27; Psalm 25
- 01/26 – Exo 28-29; Psalm 26
- 01/27 – Exo 30-31; Psalm 27
- 01/28 – Exo 32-34; Psalm 28
- 01/29 – Exo 35-40 (skim);
Psalm 29

