

The University Heights Messenger

September 5, 2010

Both Lion And Lamb

By Greg Litmer

In the Scriptures Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God and as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Both designations are accurate. When personally attacked Jesus was a lamb. I am reminded of the statement found in Isaiah 53:7, **“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.”** However, when the truth of God was being attacked, He was **“the lion of the tribe of Judah.”**

It seems that a lot of people think that it is kind of sissy to be a Christian. In so many families you will find that the wife is a child of God, but not the husband. Somehow worshipping and serving the Lord is not considered manly. Nothing could be further from the truth. It takes a courageous person to truly be a faithful child of God. It takes a courageous person to walk as Jesus walked. The Lord's presentations in defense of the truth were unassailable and unwavering. He did not back down from controversy, and when it was time to begin the final push toward the cross, we are told that Jesus **“steadfastly set his face for Jerusalem.”**

Jude tells us that we must be of the mindset that we will **“earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”** (Jude 3). That means that sometimes you just have to stand up and be counted. The Word of God is referred to as **“the sword of the Spirit”** in Ephesians 6:17. What is a sword used for? It is used for battle. Following in the footsteps of Jesus, having the mind of Christ

and walking as He walked, we must expect a certain amount of controversy and conflict.

Alexander Campbell was a great religious reformer. He pointed people back to the Bible as their sole source of authority. He often found himself embroiled in religious controversy. Concerning that, he wrote something that I believe is important for all faithful Christians to understand. Here are Campbell's words:

“If there was no error in principle or practice, then controversy, which is only another name for opposition of error, real or supposed, would be unnecessary. If it were lawful, or benevolent, to make a truce with error, then opposition to it would be both unjust and unkind. If error were innocent and harmless, then we might permit it to find its own quietus, or to immortalize itself. But so long as it is confessed that error is more or less injurious to the welfare of society, individually and collectively considered, then no man can be considered benevolent who does not set his face against it. In proportion as a person is intelligent and benevolent, he will be controversial, if error exists around him. Hence the Prince of Peace never sheathed the sword of the Spirit while He lived. He drew it on the banks of the Jordan and threw the scabbard away.”

To walk as Jesus walked, we must be ready to stand and to **“keep that which is committed to our trust”** (1 Timothy 6:20).

“I Stand At The Door And Knock”

Revelation 3:20 says, **“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”**

Scripture pictures our heart as a house. We are told that Jesus stands at the door of our heart and knocks, requesting entrance. Usually this imagery is used today in speaking of the one who is not yet a Christian but is almost persuaded to become one. Yet Jesus was speaking to those who were already Christians in Revelation 3:20. Thus, after we have obeyed the gospel, Jesus continues to request even deeper entrance into our hearts.

Is there a room in our hearts that we have sealed shut to our Lord? Is there a room in which He is not welcomed? Perhaps there is a room labeled "Sexual Fantasies" which we have closed to Him in shame. Perhaps there is a room labeled "Work Related" in which He is not welcomed. Perhaps there is a locked door guarding a shrine to our families which He is never allowed to approach. Is there a room labeled "What I'd Rather Be Doing" locked to our Lord?

The point is this: when our Lord stands at the door of our hearts and knocks He does not expect to be stuck in the entrance hall while we lock doors to rooms we prefer He not see. When He wants in, He wants *all the way in*. He wants to visit all the rooms of our hearts and be comfortable in each one, to be *Lord* of each one. May each of us run to open the door to Him without having to lock away certain rooms we're ashamed to let Him see. AL

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Glenn Kimberlin has been having a rough several days. Let us continue to remember her in prayers and show her our concern through visits, calls, and cards.

Ray Warfel tragically lost his mother, Darlene, in a motorcycle accident last week. His father, Ray, Sr., was also injured and is receiving treatment. Let us remember Ray's family in our prayers during this very difficult time.

Our members: **Glenn Davis**

Others: **Robert and Sarah Brundige, Kay Montgomery, Jean Gartland, Ruel Baker, Wes Kidd, Vera Howerton, Gail Stein, Glenn Goldy, Shannon Gilbert, Chuck McDavitt, the Shamas family.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our meeting is rapidly approaching (September 19-24). Monday through Friday is specifically designed for non Christians so let us all make sure that we invite our non Christian friends and family to attend.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE:

Sunday: Ezra 8-10, Ps 32; Mark 11
Monday: Neh 1, Ps 33, Mark 12
Tuesday: Neh 2-3, Ps 34, Mark 13
Wednesday: Neh 4-6, Ps 35, Mark 14
Thursday: Neh 7, Ps 36, Mark 15
Friday: Neh 8-9, Ps 37:1-22, Mark 16
Saturday: Neh 10, Ps 37:23-40, Luke 1

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. The Felix Infection
(Acts 24:22-27)
Sunday PM. The Price Of Ignorance
(Proverbs 23:23-25)