

## Christian Activism

What can we do as Christians to prepare for the future when secularism becomes the norm in religion? How do we keep the world outside from entering the Lord's church? Answer: Everything we do we are to do boldly!

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Study Boldly!

There will be many opportunities, if we look for them, where people will question the authority of the Bible. We need to be able to answer them by asking "if I showed you what the Bible says about *(whatever they claim)* would it make a difference?" That's how we weed out those who are just looking to toot their own horns through bluffing their way through Bible discussions. But if they **do** say "**show me**" we need to have been boldly studied up on some of the most simple, basic teachings of God's word.

Heb 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall **after the same example of unbelief**. *(If we are not studying our Bibles we could end up like the unbelieving Israelites in the wilderness who forgot that it was God Who brought them out of bondage to inhabit the promised land.)* 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**. *(It is through the word of God that many who try to bluff their way through life by just saying what the Bible says without ever reading it, that will eventually be convicted or humbled by the truth when they come face to face with it, unless their **pride prevents** them from admitting their error.)* 13 Neither is there any creature **that is not manifest** in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do. *(Emp. added)*

*"The word, which is the sword of the Spirit, is so sharp that it can divide the very "essence [syn.- core] of man." That word is also able to discern, or judge, a man's very purpose in life. It can cause one to be seen as he really is since it reveals his very thoughts and feelings."*  
Gary Hampton

Jas 1:22 But be ye **doers of the word**, and **not hearers only**, **deceiving** your own selves. *(Emp. added)*

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman *(Gk.2040- toiler)* that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But **shun profane** *(Gk.952- heathenish, wicked)* and **vain babblings** *(Gk.2757- empty sounding, that is, fruitless discussion)*: for they will increase *(Gk.4298- advance)* unto more ungodliness. *(Emp. added)*

If we allow ourselves to be pulled into worldly, fruitless discussions that can't possibly be of benefit to anyone, it can only advance their arrogant pride. See also Pro 26:4.

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Teach Boldly!

According to Bill Dilk, and this might not have originated with him, **observation- interpretation- application- communication**. We are to **read** to **interpret** so that we can **apply** and **share** what we've read. And do it **boldly**!

Mar 14:48 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and *with* staves to take Me? 49 I was **daily** with you in the temple **teaching**, and ye took Me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled. 50 And they all forsook Him, and fled. *(Emp. added)*

Act 20:16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost. 17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. 18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, 19 Serving the Lord with all **humility of mind**, and **with many tears**, and **temptations**, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: 20 *And* how I **kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house**, 21 **Testifying** both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Emp. added)*

If we don't want people to spend an eternity in a fiery Hell we will teach them the things that are profitable to the saving of their eternal souls. Amen?

2Ti 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, **the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also**. *(Teach, baptize, teach- the Great Commission of Mat 28:19-20) (Emp. added)*

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Question Boldly!

Mar 11:27 And they come again to Jerusalem: and as He was walking in the temple, there come to Him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders, 28 And say unto Him, By what authority doest Thou these things? and who gave Thee this authority to do these things? 29 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **I will also ask of you one question**, and answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. 30 The baptism of John, was *it* from heaven, or of men? answer Me. 31 And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; He will say, Why then did ye not believe him? 32 But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all *men* counted John, that he was a prophet indeed. 33 And they answered and said unto Jesus, We cannot tell. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things. *(Emp. added)*

We have to be willing and able to put people who are not sincere on the spot by being able to question their ideas with the Bible as our standard. If **they** are not willing to use the same standard for **their** defense there would be no sense in going any further.

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore **wise as serpents**, and **harmless as doves**. *(Emp. added)*

Tit 1:13 This witness is true. Wherefore **rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith** *(Put them to the test in order to get them to see the truth!)*; 14 Not giving heed *(Don't give in!)* to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, **that turn from the truth**. 15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. 16 **They profess that they know God; but in works** *(action speaks louder than words)* **they deny Him**, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate *(Gk.96- worthless)*. *(Emp. added)*

Luk 6:44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. 45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for **of the abundance of the heart** (*Gk.2588- thoughts or feelings [mind]*) his mouth speaketh. (*A person's language reveals what kind of person they truly are.*) (*Emp. added*)

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Now wait a minute! Didn't Jesus teach that we are to be pacifists?

Mat 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Being peace makers and being pacifiers are two entirely different things. We are to be **militant** about peace making! The peacemaker is the one who makes peace between man and God. Not the one who cowers in a Biblical discussion when confronted by false doctrines. Even though the following verses concern qualifications that men must meet to become elders, they are also to be understood as critical for every Christian.

Tit 1:9 **Holding fast** (*Gk.472- adhere to; by extension to care for*) the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort (*Gk.3870- Thayer: to instruct, teach*) and to convince (*Gk.1651- Thayer: used of the exposure and confrontation of false teachers of Christianity*) the gainsayers (*Gk.483- to dispute: -contradict, speak against*). 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers (*Gk.3151- wranglers*) and deceivers (*Gk.5423- a mind misleader, that is, seducer*), specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. (*These are arrogant people who like to debate things they know nothing about and in many cases are able to convince the unlearned and ignorant of their false teachings. We see this in many televangelists who elicit the pity of old people into sending in their hard earned social security incomes to support their lavish lifestyles. And most, if not all, denominations are guilty of **not** knowing the depth of truth!*) (*Emp. added*)

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear (*Gk.1167- timidity*); but of power (*Gk.1411- **force**: -ability, **strength***), and of love, and of a sound mind (*Gk.4995- discipline, that is, self-control*). (*Emp. added*)

2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent** (*same Greek phrase as in 2 Tim 2:15 "study"*) that ye may be found of Him **in peace**, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account *that* the **longsuffering of our Lord is salvation** (*"Christians should be grateful the Lord waited and count it as an opportunity for more to be saved."* –Gary Hampton [*which is why God hasn't destroyed this country, so far, for its immorality*]); even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which **they that are unlearned** (*don't know anything about what they are teaching*) **and unstable** (*Gk.793- vacillating*) **wrest** (*Gk.4761- to pervert*), as *they* do also the other scriptures, **unto their own destruction**. (*In keeping this from happening we make peace between those who are perverting scripture and the God Who inspired the men who wrote these truths by convincing them of the truth.*) 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before (*Gk.4267- to know beforehand*) (*How do we know beforehand but to be diligent in our study of the word.*), **beware** (*Gk.5442- be on guard*) lest ye also, being led away with the

error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness (*We can and will fall if we aren't careful in weeding out false doctrine.*). 18 But **grow in grace**, and in the **knowledge** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (*This is how we, by sound doctrine, are able to confront and expose the error of false teaching.*) To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen. (*Emp. added*)

Jas 1:8 A **double minded** (*Gk.1374- two spirited, that is, vacillating [in opinion or purpose]*) man is unstable (*syn.- insecure*) in all his ways. (*Emp. added*)

Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him Who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, **who can be against us?** (*Emp. added*)

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Pray Boldly!

The four "A.C.T.S." associated with praying.

A- Adoration.

Mat 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father Who art in heaven, **Hallowed** (*Gk.37- to venerate*) [*Webster: to worship; to look upon with feelings of deep respect*] be Thy name (*Gk.3686- authority*). (*Emp. added*)

C- Confession.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we **confess** (*Gk.3670- acknowledge*) our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (*Emp. added*)

T- Thanksgiving.

Col 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with **thanksgiving** (*Gk.2169- gratitude*); (*Emp. added*)

S- Supplication.

Php 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in **everything** by prayer and **supplication** (*Gk.1162- petition: -request*) with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (*Emp. added*)

Luk 18:1 And He spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; 2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: 3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. 4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; 5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, **lest by her continual coming she weary me.** 6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. 7 And shall not God avenge His own elect, **which cry day and night unto Him**, though He bear long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth? (*Emp. added*)

Jas 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him **ask in faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (*Emp. added*)

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Live Boldly!

1Pe 5:8 Be sober (*Gk.3525- to abstain from wine [keep from wine], that is, [figuratively] be discreet: -watch*), be vigilant (*Gk.1127- to keep awake, that is, watch*); because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about (*Gk.4043- be occupied with*), seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist (*Gk.436- stand against, that is, oppose*) **steadfast** (*Gk.4731- stiff, that is, solid, stable*) **in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (*Emp. added*)

It takes boldness to live righteously in such a crooked world.

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Speak Out Boldly!

Act 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that **with all boldness they may speak Thy word**, (*Emp. added*)

There will always be those who claim they cannot rationally believe that Jesus ever existed let alone rose from the dead. But we are to be thankful that they recognize His contribution to mankind by even discussing the subject of His existence.

Php 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense (*Gk.627- plea*) of the gospel. 18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, **Christ is preached** (*Gk.2605- to proclaim: -declare, speak of*); and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. (*Emp. added*)

Therefor we are to plead boldly with the lost of the saving grace of Christ speaking with conviction of Him always. The result of proclaiming the message of the Gospel will either convict the humble or disgust the defiant.

Heb 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be **hardened through the deceitfulness of sin**. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end**; (*Emp. added*)

Notice Felix's reaction to Paul having spoken boldly of the truth.

Act 24:24 And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 And as he **reasoned** (*Gk.1256- to say thoroughly, that is, discuss [in argument or exhortation]*) of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, **Felix trembled**, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. (*Emp. added*)

Heb 10:35 Cast **not** away therefore **your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.** 36 For **ye have need of patience**, that, after **ye have done the will of God**, ye might receive the promise. (*Emp. added*)

1Jn 2:28 And now, little children, **abide in Him**; that, when He shall appear, **we may have confidence**, and **not be ashamed** before Him at His coming. (*Emp. added*)

After we've boldly reasoned with the lost concerning their condition, we gain confidence in receiving the assurance of Heaven.

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Care Boldly!

Psa 126:5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

There will be many disappointments while we are sharing the word of God but notice...

Isa 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

A statement by Zig Ziegler goes something like this: "*People who can't read books read people*". The old saying "*people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care*" is something that should be understood by and of every faithful saint. Are we soul conscious to the point that we'll do most anything to win someone to Christ?

1Co 9:19 For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I **made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.** 20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the Law, as under the Law, that I might gain them that are under the Law; 21 To them that are without Law, as without law, (being not without Law to God, but under the Law to Christ, [*"He was unbending in his strict compliance with Gospel requirements, however."*- Gary Hampton- Paul would only go so far before risking his own soul.]) that I might gain them that are without law. 22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, **that I might by all means save some.** 23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with *you*. (*Emp. added*)

*"Paul would have yielded to anyone's wishes, so long as they were not sinful, in order to gain the hearing of another soul (1Co 10:33; 2Ti 2:10)."*  
Gary Hampton

1Co 10:33 Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

2Ti 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Thus we boldly proclaim, as militant soldiers of the cross, the Gospel and the steps one must take to be saved.

Hear: Romans 10:14 ... "how shall they believe in Him Whom they have not heard?"

Believe: Heb 11:6 ... "for he that commeth to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Repent: Act 3:19 ... "Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Confess: Act 8:36 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Be baptized: 1 Pet 3:21 "...baptism doth **also** (*not the only thing but is necessary to*) now save us..."

Remain faithful: 1 Cor 6:20 ... "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

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