

**To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas, Sunday, Oct. 8,
2023**

The Wars of the Lord

- Good morning **beloved**. In this trying time of affliction, we thank God for you and for your love and support. With many good and right words, you have borne us up and have been good comforters, and we also thank God for that.
- I was going to preach the second sermon of a series I was doing on Balaam and the love of God for His chosen people, but some other matters have come up. I will get to that next time.
- Some of us often greet and address this body with the term “beloved” and I don’t use the term lightly. You are **beloved** of God (Rom. 1:7 *To all that be in Rome, **beloved of God**, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ*) and you are beloved of me. Webster says “beloved” means “dearly loved.”
- I would like to begin with the Lord’s supper today. Christ is the center of everything we do in this life, so it is appropriate when we are under affliction to seek Him.
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- **BREAD** - Mat. 26:26 *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.*
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- **WINE** - Mat. 26:27 *And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*
- I almost always use the word “beloved” to address you because you are a part of Christ and I love each one of you deeply. When we use the word “beloved” we are in good company. God refers to Christ as his **beloved** son. Luke 3:22 *And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my **beloved** Son; in thee I am well pleased.*
- People can say “I love you” or “beloved” and be trite and insincere, it is all around us in this world.
- Friends, when I say, “I love you” or “beloved,” I mean it with compassion and sincerity every time I use it, even as every single prayer you have heard me pray for many years, I end it with – **please come Lord Jesus, please come.** It is

intentional and I mean it. I want the Lord to come. The Lord answers the prayers of his people, so every time I pray, I ask him to come, as I want to see him coming in the clouds as promised. That is how I use “love” or “beloved.” We should use those words with a spirit of affection, kindness, and sincerity with an intention to comfort. 2 Cor 1:3 ¶ *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. 6 And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.*

- In the New Testament, “beloved” is used by every writer. It appears in every book except for three, and it appears 61 times total.
- Doctor Luke uses “beloved” in Acts 15:25, when he refers to “*our **beloved Barnabas and Paul.***”
- Paul uses the word “beloved” to refer to the elect of God and his readers about 30 times including:
 - 1Co 15:58 *Therefore, my **beloved brethren**, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*
 - Col 3:12 *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and **beloved**, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*
 - Col 4:7 *All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a **beloved brother**, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord: - If Tychicus had been a woman he would have said **beloved sister** – not beloved “they.”*
 - Col 4:9 *With Onesimus, a faithful and **beloved brother**, who is one of you.*
 - Col 4:14 *Luke, the **beloved physician**...*
 - 2Th 2:13 *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, **brethren beloved of the Lord**, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*
- James uses “beloved” 3 times including:
 - Jas 2:5 *Hearken, **my beloved brethren**, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? We are poor in this world beloved, but rich in faith.*

- Peter uses “beloved” 8 times including:
 - 1Pe 2:11 **Dearly beloved**, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. Make no mistake beloved we are in a war.
 - 1Pe 4:12 **Beloved**, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: You will have a fiery trial – it is guaranteed Beloved.
 - 2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, **beloved**, seeing ye know [these things] before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.
 - Please don’t fall beloved. Peter gives us a sure path to not falling: 2 Peter 1:5 *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*
- John uses “Beloved” 8 times including:
 - 1Jo 4:1 **Beloved**, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
 - 1Jo 4:11 **Beloved**, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
- Jude uses it 3 times including Jude 1:3 **Beloved**, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
- I have great love and affection for each one of you and I am not ashamed of you in any way. There are those that are ashamed of us and change their names when they leave out of here. That is fine by me, that way there is no confusion about what side you are on in this war.
- I have lived among you for 40+ years. From day one you have loved me and I you. I have laughed and cried with you. We have gone through many fiery afflictions together. You have seen me at my worst and in my lowest moments,

but particularly recently, you were there with Christ our Savior and Captain, The Word, to bear me and my house up. Gal 6:2 *Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.* I am so grateful to God for each of you who have done this work.

- That is why I refer to you as beloved. And, Christ charged us to love one another. Joh 15:12 *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.* And, Joh 15:17 *These things I command you, that ye love one another.* If you are going to follow Christ we must love one another. We must actively bear one another up, visit each other when sick, talk with one another, sing with one another, and give praise to God. It is required.
- Beloved, don't let opportunities slip by you to help one another, because if you turn from this good path enough times, you will be gone. Mt 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.* We will, right before our eyes, turn into the Church at Ephesus in Rev 2 where Christ in heaven says *4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.* (Love for Christ and Love for Members of the Church – because they are the same) *5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*
- Remember what our Lord Jesus Christ said: Mt 25:31 ¶ *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on*

*the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. **This is the work.***

- Look for and take advantage of opportunities to help, assist and bear each other up. When you isolate and withhold your presence from the people of God you simultaneously make you and the body weaker. Acts 20:25 ...Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, *It is more blessed to give than to receive.* Paul said: Php 4:17 *Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*
- Simply put, you get what you give. I have Bible for that. 2 Cor 9:6 *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.* Beloved, if you don't sow, you don't reap.
- If you have not read *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, you should. And try to get a version that has the Bible verses sited. About every sentence in *Pilgrim's Progress* Bunyan is quoting a verse. And he did it in a day with no word processors or concordances. When I was a sophomore in high school, I was reading a copy from the Topeka West Library (who knew) and I was highlighting the good verses and my English teacher Mr. Payne fussed at me for using a highlighter in their book. I was amazed at how many verses he used in the book.



Giant Despair captures Christian and Hopeful.

(Giant Despair)

- But John Bunyan missed the church in *Pilgrim's Progress*. He had Christian and Faithful on the journey to the heavenly city, but it is not that at all. The New Testament dispensation is centered around the church, the bride of Christ, His beloved. That is the pattern we are given. Jesus Christ has given gifts and drawn this little group of souls together, fitly framed, and perfect to do what is put before us. Pr 11:14 *Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.* Satan is powerful, but Christ is more, and He is working in and leading his people, His Church and by Christ and His strength, we overcome.
- Christ is our all in all. Even as God used hornets to drive out His enemies before the children of Israel. Christ is a man of war, and he alone will tread the winepress. Just look at these words in Isaiah 63 and Revelation 19. *Isaiah 63:1 ¶ Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5 And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth. And Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he*

treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

- Nevertheless, while we are in this flesh, IT IS WAR.

William Gurnall (1616 – 1679) – *See the back page of this sermon.*

Several years ago, I typed this quote up with several other Bible verses and framed it and sent it to every house. A copy is attached to this sermon.

To Bunyan's point though, it is a journey and a tough one. The path to heaven is the most difficult way there is. The elect barely makes it. 1 Pet 4:18 *And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*

Mat. 7:13 *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 15 ¶ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*



Kahekili Highway –

Beloved, here is a photo of Highway 340 on Maui called the Kahekili Highway sometimes called “the wild coast of northern Maui”. Or some people just call it “Death Highway.” You

may have heard that the Road to Hana on Maui is treacherous with 600 curves and 50 single lane bridges on it. But I will tell you the Road to Hana is child's play compared to the Kahekili highway. It is something like 20 miles of death all around you. The only good thing is that it is paved. It is mountainous, windy, and narrow with no guard rails and truly one lane. At one point on an outside mountain curve with death below we had to pull so far over that part of wheel was not on the pavement to let a car go by. I pulled as far over as I could with part of the tire off and stopped and made the car go by. Our mirrors were a couple of inches from hitting each other. That is a strait and narrow way. When it is that narrow, you must discern all the time (see Charles Sermon a few weeks ago). You must be focused on what you are doing 100% of the time. It was an exhausting hour and a

half drive. It was nothing but mountain switchbacks and hair pin curves. Shirl watched the GPS, so I knew when we had a blind curve coming. She did the same when we came down Haleakala Mountain in complete darkness with no guardrails descending from 10,000 feet.



- **Hilary Step** This is the Hilary Step on Mount Everest. It is in the death zone (above 27,000 feet). It is below the Summit. It is extremely narrow, and death is literally all around you. One small miscalculation

and you die. There are numerous dead bodies there, as when you perish there, there you stay. The path is not only narrow, but what you can do on it is highly restricted. Such is our path in this world. We cannot engage in presumptuous sin and revelry on this path or get caught up with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. (1 John 2:16) If we are on the right path, our Lord Christ will lead you by the hand and help you with all you need. See (Isaiah 42.) Flesh does not like this path because of the structure, focus, restrictions, and discipline involved. We can't behave just any way, we must follow the instructions that Christ gave us. It is the difference between life and death. Those appointed to this good path are joyful and so thankful and happy to be on it. One is not going to accidentally stumble into heaven. Pr 4:18 *But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.* Isa 26:7 *The way of the just is uprightness: thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just.*

– **DEATH EATERS**



One of our loved ones said that the people of this world feed each other death. Our YOU LOVE DEATH sign is timely! We try to give them the behavior and religion of LIFE, but they want is death. That is what this world will do to and for you, feed you death.

We say: **CHOOSE LIFE.**

CHOOSE LIFE

- **CHOOSE LIFE**
Moses says this in Deut. 30:15
... I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;
16 *In that I command thee*

*this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: **THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE, THAT BOTH THOU AND THY SEED MAY LIVE:** 20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days...*

Eph 5:5 Let no man deceive you... the wrath of God comes upon the children of disobedience. Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. You have death and life before you, choose life.

Beloved we are here on this earth for a very short time, and in that short time our fate for eternity is appointed by God. The outcomes are clear: 1) *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments;* (Luke 16:23); 2) awake in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:23); 3) The Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints to execute judgment upon all and *we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* (1 Thes 4:16; Jude 14-15)

Beloved, If the Lord tarries, we will die and go to the grave – guaranteed. There is little in life that is 100% certain but this is. You can't trick, strategize, cajole, or buy your way out of death. You can't go around it, you can't go over it, you can't go under it, and you can't avoid it. Period. It doesn't matter if you are Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, Elon Musk or Taylor Swift, you will face death and go to the grave and you will not take any of the wealth and power you have accumulated with you. You will stand naked before God and give an account for everything you did and everything you said in this life. 2Co 5:10 *For we must all appear (you will get a summons you cannot ignore) before the judgment seat (the white throne) of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.*

When you are conceived it is the start of your body and your soul, but when you die your soul continues and it has no end. As humans we are not prepared to fully understand eternity. It is math we can't comprehend or solve for. How can you effectively describe eternity using the concept of time and apply it to that which has no beginning or end?

The line around the church represents eternity, the tick mark at the start is the time you are alive. In eternity, time is no more. What you do here has implications you cannot begin to comprehend. Don't believe Satan and this world when he says you shall not surely die. You will die and you will die the second death from which you never recover.

Life is short and you will never know how short it is until you are dead. You cannot count upon your 70 or 80 years – God appoints our days, but we know eternity never ends. Spurgeon says: *we should live this short life in the light of eternity.* Eternity is coming and it will be here before you know it – it might be 5 minutes

from now or fifty years from now, but the time is counting down toward it every second.

Mat. 25:46 *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

2 Thes 1:9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

Rev. 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Rev. 20:12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.* Jude 1- *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 ¶ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;*

Mat. 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

I love you all. Amen.



The Wars of the Lord

The Christian in Complete Armour, William Gurnall, 1616-1679

Right now, as I speak, there is raging war between the Saint and Satan, and that so bloody a one, that the cruelest which ever was fought by men, will be found by sport and child's play to this. Alas, what is the killing of bodies to the destroying of everlasting souls? It is a sad meditation indeed, to think how many thousands have been sent to the grave in a few late years among us by the sword of man; but far more astonishing, to consider how many of those may be sent to hell by the sword of God's wrath. It is a spiritual war we are in, and that not a history of what was fought many ages past and is now over; but of what now is going on, the tragedy is at present acting, and that not at the furthest end of the world, but what concerns thee. The stage whereon this war is fought, is every man's soul. There is no neutral party in this war. The whole world is engaged in this quarrel of the covenant, either for God against Satan or for Satan against God. Who are you for?

Eph. 6:12 *We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

Eph. 6:13-18 *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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*

2 Tim. 2:3-4 *Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen Him to be a soldier.*

2Co 10:4 *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*