

LET THE BANNER FLY
(Psalm 60:4)

I. What is our banner?

- A. Our banner is Christ (Hebrews 12:1-4).
 - 1. We are to proclaim Him and not ourselves (2 Corinthians 4:5; Colossians 1:27-28).
 - 2. We are to lift up Christ in order for all men to be drawn unto Him (John 12:32).
- B. In the Christian religion Jesus Christ is:
 - 1. The chief object of attack.
 - a. In battle, the opposing army always went after the banner because that was where the leaders were.
 - b. The moment the enemy saw it, it became his objective to strike there.
 - c. Jesus Christ has always been the object of attack.
 - d. Atheists seek to tear the gospel to pieces but it is as glorious as ever.
 - e. Modern skeptics attempt to do the same but it stands whole and undefiled by them.
 - 2. A symbol of defiance.
 - a. When Jesus is preached there is a defiance given by His enemies (1 Corinthians 1:18).
 - b. Jesus is also a symbol of defiance to the prince of this world.
 - (1) If you want to defy Satan preach the truth.
 - (2) If you want him happy, preach a social message.
 - (3) We defy Satan when we preach the truth about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
 - 3. The emblem of victory (1 Corinthians 15:57).
 - a. 2 Corinthians 2:14.
 - b. Through Jesus we have victory over:
 - (1) Sin (Colossians 1:13-14);
 - (2) Temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13);
 - (3) Sorrow (2 Corinthians 1:3-5);
 - (4) Death (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

II. By whom was it given ("Thou hast given a banner)?

- A. Since Jesus is the banner over Christians, we know God gave us this banner, just as He gave a banner to the Jews of old (Galatians 4:4; 1 John 4:9).
- B. God allowed Him to become flesh.
 - 1. John 1:14.
 - 2. Hebrews 10:5.
- C. Jesus was given on the cross when God allowed Him to shed His blood for our sins.
 - 1. John 3:16.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 15:3.

3. Romans 5:8.b

III. To whom was it given (“to them that fear Him”).

- A. The banner is not for all men, because God has a chosen people - “them that fear Him.”
- B. The ones that fear God are the ones that keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
- C. Those that fear God are the ones in whose hands the banner should be placed.
 - 1. Should it be put in the hands of the unfaithful?
 - 2. Should it be put in the hands of worldly minded in the church?
- D. We need to unfurl our banner by word of mouth (Acts 8:35).
 - 1. One of the problems we have in the church today is Christians with closed mouths.
 - 2. We talk about all kinds of things with our mouths except about our banner Jesus.
 - 3. The average child of God is not vocal enough about his faith (Psalm 107:2).
 - 4. We tell people if we are Alabama or Auburn fans, Democrat or Republicans, and we need to tell them we are Christians.
 - 5. Too many in the pews have left the talking to those in the pulpits.
- E. We need to unfurl our banners by living right (Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27).
 - 1. Our speech, temper, activities and habits will distinguish us from the world when we are influenced by the gospel (2 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Peter 2:9).
 - 2. If we are going to win someone to the Lord we know, it will be because we lived right in front of them.
 - 3. Peter told wives they could win their husbands without the word by living right in front of them (1 Peter 3:1).
 - 4. People will want to be Christians because they see Christ in us.

IV. For what purpose was this given (“that it may be displayed because of the truth”)?

- A. This means it is to be displayed in defense of the truth.
 - 1. The banner of Jesus is not to be brought out in unrighteous efforts or unjust causes.
 - 2. If it is not something dealing with truth or morality, the Lord is to be left out of it.
- B. We are to be ready to give an answer for that which we believe (1 Peter 3:15).
 - 1. The only way we can do this is through study (John 5:39; 2 Timothy 2:15).
 - 2. Too many are leaving their Bibles on the night stand or coffee table, and are unable to give answers as they should.
- C. If we will lift up Jesus, we will draw men unto Him (John 12:32).

V. What will the results be of us flying our banner?

- A. When we fly the banner of Jesus in our lives, it will help keep us untangled

with the world and its affairs.

1. This declaration of belonging to Christ protects us when dealing with the enemies of the Lord.
 2. Compromise and denial are possible when we are scared of stating strongly our position.
 3. This is exactly what happened with Peter.
- B. Our flying high our banner will give strength to those around us who are considering compromise.
- C. An open declaration of our faith will show the world the only remedy for the main disease that is killing us: sin.
1. It is tragic for Christians to be modest about their faith in times like these.
 2. Will we be forgiven for keeping the remedy to sin all to ourselves?

From a sermon by Melvin J. Wise