

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE?

By Brett Hickey

The Holy Spirit records Goliath's challenge in 1 Samuel 17:8-11, "'Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.' And the Philistine said, 'I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.' When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid."

When this behemoth slandered the people of God, King Saul and Israel's army chose to tolerate the disrespect by responding to Goliath's detractions with the "live and let live" approach. When David was sent by his father to check on his older brothers and to see how the battle was progressing, he reacted differently. He exclaimed with righteous indignation, "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God (1 Sam. 17:26)?"

David's oldest brother, Eliab, fumed when he heard David cry for retaliation. Instead of joining David's call to end Israel's soft stance against Goliath, Eliab tried to silence David by shaming him, accusing him of false motives and directing him to activities more suitable for a man of his age and inexperience: "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart..." (1 Sam. 17:28) David declares in disbelief, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?" (1 Sam. 17:29).

The church needs men like David. Men today (with the support of institutional machinery) are maligning the word

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of God and the church of God you can read about in the New Testament just as Goliath was slighting the people of God. Ironically, they are intolerant of men like David who cry foul. "Shhhh!" they whisper to those who expose inconsistencies between Scripture and modern religious teaching. "So the New Testament says "A" and someone else say "non-A?" What of it? Surrender your convictions or keep them to yourself; wave the white flag; sign a truce; compromise for the sake of 'peace." As David declared, "Is there not a cause?"

The devil delights in duping us into thinking the war was over at the cross. Satan still fights against the truth and if we surrender the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17) Satan's gains will increase exponentially. Paul rallies the faithful in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, "For the weapons of our warfare are Continued on back page...

April TV Broadcast Schedule

4/3

Sermon #1040
The Forbearance of David

4/10

Sermon #1041 Humility of the Apostle Paul

4/17

Sermon #1042 Barnabas the Encourager

4/24

Sermon #1043 Jacob's Firstborn not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ..." We cannot allow blatant religious error to stand uncontested. We do not quibble over the precise meaning of all the symbolic minutiae in the book of Revelation, but wherever fundamental doctrines of the church are assailed, God's people must rise up to its defense.

May we never forget that while the Scriptures instruct, comfort, and strengthen, they are also for correction. The broad utility of Scripture is highlighted in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..." Shortly thereafter, the Holy Spirit reiterates this obligation and the tendency among professing believers that makes it so necessary. "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." (2 Tim. 4:2-4).



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Upcoming Gospel Meetings

April 1-3

Bankhead Drive CHURCH OF CHRIST

2610 East Bankhead Drive Weatherford, TX Speaker: Doug Hawkins 7:30 pm (1st), 6:00 pm (2nd) 10:30 am & 2:00 PM (3rd)

April 8-9

North Side CHURCH OF CHRIST

301 E. Jasper Street Jacksboro, TX Speaker: Brett Hickey 7:00 pm (8th-9th)

April 13-17

Fossil Creek CHURCH OF CHRIST

3517 North Beach Street Ft Worth, TX Speaker: Barney Owens 7:30 pm (13th-15th), 6:00 pm (16th) 10:00 am & 1:30pm (17th)

April 15-17

East Allen CHURCH OF CHRIST

1008 E. Exchange Parkway Allen, TX Speaker: William St. John 7:30 pm (15th), 6:00 pm (16th) 10:30 am & 2:00pm (17th)

April 20-24

CHURCH OF CHRIST on Green Oaks

4601 S. W. Green Oaks Blvd. Arlington, TX Speaker: Joe Hisle

7:30 pm (20th-22nd), 6:00 pm (23rd) 10:00 am & 2:30pm (24th)

We support Brett Hickey's message, and the truths taught in the Bible for all mankind. We assist bringing this TV program to the north Texas area, and are glad you have watched the program! We would like you to visit any of our worship services!

Allen

East Allen CHURCH OF CHRIST

1008 E. Exchange Parkway Allen, TX 75002

Arlington

CHURCH OF CHRIST on Green Oaks

4601 S. W. Green Oaks Blvd. Arlington, TX 76017

Bridgeport

East Mound CHURCH OF CHRIST

Highway 2123, 1.5 miles south of town Bridgeport, TX 76426

Canton

Phalba CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hwy 198 between Maybank & Canton at Hwy 316 intersection Phalba, TX 75124

Cleburne

South Walnut CHURCH OF CHRIST

306 South Walnut Street Cleburne, TX 76033

Dallas

Dallas CHURCH OF CHRIST

122 Carol Lane Red Oak, TX 75154

Duncanville

Duncanville CHURCH OF CHRIST

1615 Stratford Lane Duncanville, TX

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Fossil Creek CHURCH OF CHRIST

3517 North Beach Street Fort Worth, TX 76111

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CHURCH OF CHRIST in Frisco

9201 North County Road Frisco, TX 75034

Grapevine

CHURCH OF CHRIST in Grapevine

713 North Lucas Drive Grapevine, TX 76051

Lewisville

Denton county CHURCH OF CHRIST

1305 S. Business State Highway 121, Suite 105 Lewisville, TX 75067

Mineral Wells

Mineral Wells CHURCH OF CHRIST

300 Southeast 15th Street Mineral Wells, TX 76067

Paris

Paris CHURCH OF CHRIST

35 13th Street S.E. Paris, TX

Rockwall

Northview CHURCH OF CHRIST

1405 East I-30 NE corner of I-30 Frontage & Industrial Blvd Rockwall, TX 75087

Weatherford

Bankhead Drive CHURCH OF CHRIST

2610 East Bankhead Drive Weatherford, TX 76087