

Chapter 1 : 22 Top Bible Verses About Having Victory - Encouraging Scripture

For the Lord Spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying: Say ye not, A Confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A Confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid.

And therein lies the rub. Why is it that the slightest crisis can so easily eclipse our hope? And there it is. Soon the prosperity, protection, and hope of Jeremiah No one sets out to un-trust God. God is with you and understands that trust is a process. So how do you get back on the trust track? Confess your lack of trust. Here are 30 scriptures to get your hope soaring again: Trust You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. He rescues them from all their troubles. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Do not be afraid of them! The Lord your God will go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor forsake you. Trust Me with this. My ways are not your ways. You can thank me for that one later. Will share with my class at church. Thank you for putting this list together. Anonymous again! blessing my day and heart. Thank you for being sticky and bringing Light. So grateful for you both.

Chapter 2 : Reliance on God, Our Hope of Victory

*Reliance on God, Our Hope of Victory: A Sermon Preached on the Day of Fasting and Prayer, September 26th, (Classic Reprint) [William Robert Gordon] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

God will be faithful to His promise. He can do the impossible with supernatural grace. No matter how bad it looks to the natural eye God can turn it around in the blink of an eye. I just have to trust Him. He wants to not be condemned but to be qualified to a good calling. We are controlled not how we live now, but what we think will happen later. Christian hope has to do with the ultimate future, not the immediate. Rejoice that the Lord Jesus has become your strength and your song - He has become your salvation. It is by His strength and wisdom we live and succeed. Give the glory to God. In both these cases man seeks to break out of his pilgrim existence and have his life otherwise than from the hand of God. The Lord is the Healer. He is the dreamer of dreams and He answers prayers. Be assured that He will bring that prodigal home Even more is possible for the person who has faith. And still more is possible for the person who knows how to love. But everything is possible for the person who practices all three virtues. I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. It involves a commitment to action What we hope for should be what we are prepared to work for and do bring about as far as that power lies in us. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Moody "Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. Guard my soul and deliver me; Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? Lewis "Hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no virtue at all As long as matters are really hopeful, hope is mere flattery or platitude; it is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength. It is in Jesus Christ and the works He finished on the cross. You have right standing with God and He is faithful to keep His promises.

Chapter 3 : Hope Filled Scriptures for every Situation - From the Bible

Reliance on God our hope of victory: a sermon preached on the day of fasting and prayer September 26 Gale Archival Editions: On Demand are digital copies of rare and out-of-print historical content.

Finney-- edited by Katie Stewart Christ is our Hope. Our only rational expectation is from Him. Christ in us is our Hope of glory. Without Christ in us, we have no good or well-grounded hope of glory. Christ in the Gospel, Christ on the cross, Christ risen, Christ in Heaven, all is hope, of an external type, to the believer; but Christ in us, Christ actually present, living, and reigning in us, as really as He lives and reigns in glory, is the only bedrock and only well-grounded Hope a real Christian has. We cannot stress this too much. The soul that does not know, and Spiritually know, Christ in this relation has absolutely no well-grounded hope. He may hope that he is a Christian. He may hope that his sins are forgiven, that he shall be saved. But he can have no good hope of glory. It cannot be too fully understood, or too deeply realized, that absolute despair of help and salvation in any other possible way, except by Christ in us, is an unalterable condition of our knowing and embracing Christ as our Hope. Many seem to have conceived of Christ as their hope only in His outward relation, that is, as an atoning Savior, as a risen and ascended Savior, but also as a factual, historical, concrete statistic. The indispensable necessity of having Christ within them, ruling in their hearts and establishing His government over their whole being, is a condition of salvation of which they have not thought. Christ cannot be truly and savingly our hope, in any degree further than He is received into, and reigns, in our souls. To hope in merely an outward Christ is to hope in vain. To hope in Christ with true Christian hope implies: WE know the full spiritual image of our hopeless condition without Him. It implies an understanding of our sins, as to annihilate all hope of salvation concerning the demands of the Law of God. WE know, with such a perception of our spiritual bondage to sin, that without Him, all hope of salvation is extinguished, and that we cannot exist as a Christian without His constant influence and strength to keep us from sinning. Thy Word is truth. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. WITH such a knowledge of our circumstances, we know the temptation of fighting our own battles, and the fruitless effort of making, in the least degree, any headway against our spiritual foes. We know, that in our own wisdom and strength, we have no expectation of pleasing God in any respect, and thus, we have no expectation of really being a Christian. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: WE have absolutely no hope from any other source. WE recognize Him to be the One that dwells in us, and is received by faith to be the Supreme Control of our souls. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us. WE appreciate Him being our Hope, and we have a hearty and joyful reception of Him in this relationship. The dethroning of self, the utter denial and rejection of self, is essential to the enthroning and crowning of Christ in our inner man. When Christ is clearly seen to be the only hope of our soul, and when He is spiritually received in this relation, the soul learns habitually and constantly to lean upon Him, to rest in Him, and makes no efforts without Him. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Chapter 4 : America Acknowledges God

Reliance on God, our hope of victory. A sermon preached on the day of fasting and prayer, September 26th, Item Preview remove-circle Share or Embed This Item.

MORE than anything else in life we need to be able to walk in complete victory " in every situation. The full and complete victory was purchased for us at Calvary when Jesus took upon Himself our sins and failures. He has provided so much for us in His death and resurrection that really we have no excuse for not living in complete victory day by day to the glory of God. The Lord Himself has removed every obstacle out of our way; for it is His will that we learn to know the full blessings provided for us in Christ. The only true victory is "through our Lord Jesus Christ. Let me share with you another mighty Scripture: Not sometimes, but always! God has a complete and continual victory for us in Christ! You do not need to live a defeated life any longer. Often we feel, "If only the circumstances were different, I would be more free for the things of the Lord. We cannot blame God for our failures; but we can thank Him that we do not need to stay in our failures! If we do not use these weapons that the Lord has given us, then WE will be brought into captivity. We will lose the victory Christ died to give us. Those things which have defeated us in times past, can themselves be defeated as we lay hold on the victory that is rightfully ours through Jesus Christ. Do not let the enemy of your soul rob you any longer. Claim the complete victory which God wants you to have and enjoy - and walk daily in it, giving glory to His name. If we are to accomplish anything real for the Kingdom of God, then it is very important that we know how to stand in the victory of the Cross. To be an overcomer, we must overcome. If we are not an overcomer, it is because we are overcome. God will always cause us to triumph " when we will let Him triumph in us. The Apostle Paul is a man loved by multitudes of Christians the world over, because of the inspired writings he has left us for our growth in grace in the Christian walk. Very few people, however, are prepared to live the life he did, i. His heart attitude was not that of struggling to keep the victory " rather he boldly declares: I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: Paul learned how to turn every situation whether impossible or otherwise into contentment. But he did not stop at that! He goes on to tell us that he could do all things through Christ Who strengthened him. In Romans 8 , Paul again reveals the complete victory which is ours through Jesus Christ. The strongest onslaught the enemy can bring against us, we are able to effectively conquer, with plenty in reserve! We are more than conquerors through Jesus Who loves us! This is the kind of victory that God has for those who love Him and who believe the promises of His Word. We cannot go under for going over! May this message be your daily experience and joy. Box 57, Paraparaumu , New Zealand. This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

Chapter 5 : US History Quotes About God and the Bible

Full text of "Reliance on God, our hope of victory. A sermon preached on the day of fasting and prayer, September 26th, 1789. See other formats J^Y geliancc on (Hob, ouv pojic of Bxctoxy A SERMOK PRKAOHED ON THE DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYEtI, SEPTEMBER 26th,

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truthâ€”that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? That same little chapel, located one block from Ground Zero, survived and served for months as relief headquarters for victims and workers in the aftermath. On September 17, years ago, the Constitution was signed. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings which we get from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Democracy is the outgrowth of the religious conviction of the sacredness of every human life. On the religious side, its highest embodiment is the Bible; on the political side, the Constitution. President to move into the White House. One day later, Adams composed a prayer http: May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof. They therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure and which insures to the good eternal happiness, are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments. Each year at this time, we rejoice in the proclamation of good news, that in Bethlehem of Judea, a Savior was born. And we reflect on the call of our Creatorâ€”who by taking this form, reminds us of our duty to protect and care for the weak and the vulnerable among us. Its first aim is to destroy all sense of high moral and religious responsibility. It reduces man to a mere machine. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell. Senator, Secretary of State, U. To have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A. Easter morning holds wonder and promise, and it is a chance for people everywhere to gather with family and friends to celebrate the power of love conquering death. On this powerful day, let us join together and give thanks to the Almighty for the glory of His grace. Indeed, these two sciences run into each other. The divine law, as discovered by reason and the moral sense, forms an essential part of both. Peace comes only through the establishment of the supremacy of the forces of good. Johns River near what is now Jacksonville, Florida. Washington wrote to his brother on July 18, http:

Reliance on God, our hope of victory A sermon preached on the day of fasting and prayer, September 26th,

As I read the words of this psalm, I see the imagery of battle being portrayed in these verses. It appears that he is in a difficult situation. Yet, it is also very clear from reading these verses that even in the midst of the battles he is fighting, David still has hope. Hope is a powerful thing. The world sees hope as a wish or a desire. Hope, for the world, is a longing for something that may or may not take place. The Bible teaches us a vastly different definition of hope. The world says that hope is merely a fond wish or desire. But, the words used for hope in the Bible tell a different story. Are you resting in the sure confidence that God will do just as He has promised He would? That is the essence of hope and hope is a possession we all need to be sure we own in large quantities. I want to show you, from the words of David, why you and I have a reason to hope in the Lord. Notice with me where our hope comes from and what hope will accomplish in our lives. David begins his psalm of hope by declaring his personal faith in the Lord. David has a personal relationship with God. This is the basic foundation for hope. Because of Who our God is, we need not fear any enemy that should arise against us. Satan himself is no match for our sovereign God! God did not fail him then, and He will not fail His child today. That same confidence is ours today! The God we serve is unchangeable, Mal. He is the same God with the same power that He has always been. He has never, and He will never change. Because He has been faithful in the past, we can count on His being faithful now. Think of all the things He has done; the victories He has won; the enemies He has vanquished; the mountains He has moved; the victories He has won. Think on these things and remember that the God who performed countless wonders in the past is still that same God today! That should give His people hope! Not only does living with our faith give us hope; but also living faithful to the Lord provides a measure of hope that cannot otherwise exist. David mentions three goals in this verse. These three goals all arise from a single commitment to serve the Lord faithfully from a heart of love. This is a theme David repeated in Psalm There, David envies the little birds that make their nests around the tabernacle. They can be near the house of God all the time, while David cannot. He has a desire to be where God is; to be in that place where God is worshiped and honored. That is his heartbeat. That ought to be our desire as well. We need that same passion to be where the Lord is honored and where He is worshiped. Of course, we have the church and we are commanded to be in attendance, Heb. But, I think there ought to be a desire to find that place of closeness and intimacy with the Lord. We can have that place where we can linger in His presence all the days of our lives. If there is a genuine desire to be near Him, it will manifest itself in clear action. There will be a commitment to prayer and to the study of the Word of God. There will be a commitment to public and private worship. Those who want to linger near the Lord will find a way. And, when we make a move toward Him, He will make a move toward us, James 4: That is a worthy goal for life! This should be the goal of every believer as well. If we are going to worship the Lord, we are going to have to do it His way. Jesus told us how to worship in John 4: How long has it been since you just loved on the Lord? This is another image of worship. David here declares his utter dependence upon the Lord for the necessities of life. David looks beyond his own abilities and sees the limitless provisions of the Lord. Therefore, he wants nothing more than to be able to call upon the Lord My, what a limitless resource we have been given in prayer! We are invited to pray, Jer. We are promised that God will hear and answer our prayers, Isa. Therefore, let us also learn to lean upon Him! Instead of worry and fear, let us learn to turn to the Lord. He will see to our needs, Phil. He will never fail us nor will He ever turn us away empty-handed, Matt. Our commitment to Him provides hope in the day of our battles. As we Linger near Him; Love on Him and Lean on Him, we can have the absolute confidence that He will see to our needs and to the things that would cause us to worry. The tent was then surrounded by an army of brave soldiers. Could there be a safer place in all the universe? Those who have entered His pavilion are protected by Him and, even while the battles rage around them, they are entertained with the peace and joy of the King Himself. This is promise to those who will abide in that close place! No enemy can penetrate the defenses and enter this private place. It is protected from the enemy! The assurance of His sheltering place allows us to weather the storms of life with hope. This was what

allowed David to face Goliath. This was the confidence that kept Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. This was the assurance that gripped the heart of Daniel! This was the knowledge that allowed Paul to continue, even when he suffered greatly, 2 Cor. That place which was off limits to all but the High Priest, and he could only enter there one day per year, and the only with the blood of an innocent sacrifice. It was a place that other men entered under the penalty of death. Yet, it is that secret place, to which God takes His precious friends. The Holy of Holies was a place where the very presence of God dwelt and the glory of God could be seen. It was there that God took David during the battles of his life. It was there David found himself shut up with God and shut off from the world around him. It was a place no one could enter unless they did so at his bidding. To do otherwise invited instant death. It is amazing that there is a place of solitude in a world filled with people. There is a place that you and I can flee to during the crushing battles that rage about us. A place that affords us quiet, peace and the profound presence of God. Those who have learned to abide in Him have been to that place and know the glory of it. It is a place where the enemy dares not follow. It is a place reserved for those who love the Lord their God. Have you ever been to that place? That place where God meets with you and you alone. That place where all else falls away and you are left with Him and Him alone? That is the place He invites those who abide to enter! Stephen was in that place at the moment of his death, Acts 7: Paul was in that place during his life, 2 Cor. It is possible for us to enter that sacred, secret place where the world dims away and God becomes larger than everything else! Of course, this Rock he refers to is none other than the Lord Himself, Psa. It is a rock that juts far above the battles going on at its feet. It allows those who ride its heights to rise far above the tumult beneath! This is the gift to all those who know Him! We are promised that we have a place of refuge that will lift us far above the stormy seas that would threaten to drown us.

Chapter 7 : 53 Christian Quotes On Hope Including Bible Verses - The Powerful Victory Mind

Get this from a library! Reliance on God, our hope of victory: a sermon preached on the day of fasting and prayer, September 26, [William Robert Gordon].

The Solid Rock Introduction In two previous articles it was noted that the believer has an undergirding source of confidence: Thus those who love the Lord are to follow him and his standards faithfully in their daily lives. If they do, they may be assured that their Lord remains faithful to them and the conditions of his covenant with them. Therefore, they should realize that the Lord is not only their redeemer, but in him they have a rock-solid foundation cf. Individual believing Israelites could also claim this reality as their own. David understood that if God would watch over him and guide him in his personal choices v. In that regard the psalmist prayed: Be my protector and refuge, a stronghold where I can be safe! For you are my high ridge and my stronghold. I have prayed for deliverance, because otherwise they will gloat over me; when my foot slips they will arrogantly taunt me Ps. You are my only hope! Deliver me from all my sins of rebellion! Be my protector in refuge, a stronghold where I can be safe! For you are my high ridge and my stronghold Ps. Even in the midst of the severest trial the Lord is the One in whom the believer may find his sure defense: The LORD, my protector, deserves praise—” the one who trains my hands for battle, and my fingers for war, who loves me and is my stronghold, my refuge and my deliverer, my shield and the one in whom I take shelter Ps. Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope. This is what comforts me in my trouble, for your promise revives me Ps. The psalm falls into two distinct portions. In the first section, the psalmist expresses his desperate plight and fear before God intervened and rescued him vv. In the second, David expresses his high praise of God his defender and deliverer vv. The whole psalm may be outlined briefly as follows. Opening Praise of God A. Opening Praise of God N. Analysis As the psalm begins, David points to the above mentioned three characteristics of God, which become prominent themes throughout the psalm: Here it serves to alert and assure the reader that throughout the recorded description of what David had endured and experienced it was the Lord who gave David a sense of stability and the strength to carry on. It was he also who delivered David. God was indeed his refuge in the time of his distress and his redeemer from the oppression of others. The divine warrior theme is closely connected to the idea of covenant in the OT. God reveals himself through covenant treaty and then promises to protect his subject people from danger threatened by their enemies. David had clearly experienced such aid as a young man when he faced and defeated the giant Goliath 1 Sam. Later David would be granted a foundational covenant with God his divine warrior 2 Sam. David had found himself so overwhelmed by his enemies that death seemed inevitable. He likened himself to a swimmer who was engulfed by powerful waves: From his heavenly temple he heard my voice; he listened to my cry for help. Pay attention to my cry for help! Do not ignore me in my time of trouble! When I call out to you, quickly answer me! Indeed, as dramatically as David has described the desperate nature of his situation in face of his mortal enemies, even more so is his portrait of the divine warrior. Schaefer summarizes it well: The earth shakes to the great depths of the roots of the mountains v. How fitting a description! David portrayed his seemingly hopeless state as being like one trapped in the watery depths v. It is interesting to note that these verses vv. Certainly the language and imagery of the psalm point to an earlier source. Thus Cross identified and listed data favoring an earlier date for this section of the psalm. The literary associations with Exod. Not to be overlooked also are other texts that reflect the language and details of the exodus experience, several of which contain early linguistic features e. The reasons are twofold. First, David indicates that he had conducted himself in a godly manner v. By way of enclosing this first reason why God had rewarded David, he once again suggests that it was his consistent spiritual conduct that served as the basic reason why God rescued him out of his helpless and seemingly hopeless state cf. Simply put, David had been loyal to God and his word. Therefore, God had rewarded his correct behavior. Unlike the case for those who are not trustworthy or are haughty, God can be counted on to help those who are humble vv. Here David confesses that his only hope lay in God alone. Pour out your hearts before him! God is our shelter! Returning to Psalm 18, we note that the first major section of the psalm vv. David now builds upon the thought of his own invincibility when

God is on his side v. The second major section vv. In a first sub-unit vv. Through it all God was his protector and provider in order to prevail over his enemies vv. Indeed, God has promised to be with the believer in all things, including times of trial and difficulty Ps. Therefore, he concludes this movement in the psalm by acknowledging that it was God who kept him from failure v. In a second movement David goes on to describe his victory over his enemies. He had seemed to be so helpless before them vv. He adds that whatever surviving enemies there were knelt at his feet in full submission v. Unlike David, whose plaintiff plea for help was heard and answered by the Lord vv. It was He who rescued David and established his leadership both at home and among the surrounding peoples. Accordingly, David finishes his psalm on a high note of praise vv. Once again we encounter in these verses the themes of rescue V. The living Lord, Yahweh, is the One to be praised as the true king to be extolled. As Lord of all he is the controller of the nations, and all people and matters. In the final analysis, it is he who has vindicated David and established his kingship as well as his leadership among the surrounding peoples. All praise and thanks belong to the Lord who has not only rescued David but in so doing has established him as his anointed v. Many find in this statement a messianic note. In accordance with Psalm 2: So committed is God to David that he covenanted with him 1 Chron. To that covenant God ever remains faithful cf. Believers realize that at one time they were alienated from God and spiritually dead in sins and without any other source of hope Eph. In Christ Jesus they have such an assured hope of eternal life Col 1: As they wait for that day, believers also understand that Jesus Christ is their solid rock of salvation and stability for living cf. Believers should therefore be careful to build on their sure foundation in Christ in solid, consistent spiritual growth. Mindful that Jesus has commissioned believers to proclaim the Gospel message Matt May we as believers also remain faithful Rev 2: On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. VanGemeren , 5 vols. Nevertheless, both terms could be used at times for rocks in general, whether large or small. When applied to God both can carry the significance of permanence, protection, and power. Zondervan, , 5: Leland Ryken, James C. InterVarsity, , Johns Hopkins University, , This study concerning the relevant portions of Psalm 18 and 2 Sam. Patterson and Michael E. Biblical Studies Press, , Leupold, The Psalms Grand Rapids: Baker, , For additional information on the use of the right hand to signify completeness, see the accompanying discussion on pp.

Chapter 8 : Jesus Christ, the Hope in You

Loading Reliance on God, our hope of victory. A sermon preached on the day of fasting and prayer, September 26th, A sermon preached on the day of fasting and prayer, September 26th, By Rev. W. R. Gordon.

Say ye not, A Confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A Confederacy ; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. In the Old Testament, the principal events of these wars are briefly noticed ; but the messages sent them from God on political affairs, by his prophets, are recorded more at large. The circumstances giving rise to the text, are briefly these. This occasioned great fear among the Jews, and prompted their leaders to seek a similar combination of forces with the Assyrian Power, lest their enemies might prevail. In this state of things, God sent Isaiah to Ahaz, King of Judah, to assure him that the confederacy should not succeed ; and also to rebuke him for seeking aid from Assyria, an insulting distrust of God. In connection with his message, the prophet thus pours out derision upon this confederacy: Take counsel together, and it shall come to naught ; speak the word, and it shall not stand, for God is with us. Tell them not to fear the terrible front of the Confederacy made by the King of Israel, nor be afraid of this combined power. Under the trying circumstances of this amazing conflict, we are called upon to invoke the aid of the Almighty, who holds all circumstances and all successes in his own hand. In the beginning of this trouble, President Buchanan issued a proclamation to the people, inviting them to the specific duty of fasting and prayer. As loyal subjects, we gladly obeyed. President Lincoln has repeated the invitation, and as loyal subjects, we again gladly obey. As for the course I take in conducting the exercises of the pulpit on these occasions, I act in obedience to my own sense of duty. I feel myself now bound to speak pointedly on the subject of absorbing interest which is brought this day, by our highest national authority, before the Church. The Church of Jesus Christ in this land has enjoyed protection and peace, from the beginning of our national Government. She has been allowed to pursue her appropriate work, not only without hindrance, but with all the encouragement she needs. In turn, the government and interests of the nation have grown up compactly into a mighty power, invested with an acknowledged commanding importance among the nations of the earth, largely owing to the prevalence of Christianized public sentiment, to which she is indebted for moral excellence and national efficiency. Christ for every thing which may be counted in, as an element of its marvelous prosperity. Here the spiritual enterprises of the Church have been carried on in various forms, largely influencing our inhabitants to the attainments of the better citizen ; while the State, on the other hand, has upheld the Church by a strong, moral sentiment, and a disposition to favor her institutions, and encourage every denominational effort, put forth within the acknowledged legitimate sphere of her operation. It is not, therefore, to be expected that the voice of the Christian pulpit can remain silent, either willingly or by constraint, when by any combination of circumstances, this happy state of things is imperiled. Such silence would be base ingratitude, an unseemly want of sympathy, a criminal indifference to the dearest earthly interests of Church as well as State ; it would be treason to all acknowledged obligation of individual responsibility, it would contradict the uniform practice of prophets and apostles, and the uniform inculcations of holy writ. The General Synod of our Church has loudly and fitly spoken, so have other and larger bodies ; but multitudes of churches connected with these various bodies, have sent forth their individual utterances long since, and up to the present time. You will bear me witness, that I have not discussed any subject of state policy, nor any political question of the day in this pulpit. Through the course of my ministry hitherto, I have never done so, simply because I preferred always to give preference and prominence to higher themes on the Sabbath day ; and hence my references to civil matters have been rare, and only incidental at that ; but the time has come, when the example of the Church in the revolutionary days of our Republic will be, and ought to be followed. At all events, as a minister, I am responsible to God, and not to man, as to the duties of my calling ; and this fact must always prevent me from being intimidated, or coaxed out of that course which my own convictions designate as my line of duty. The State paper which has invited the millions of our Union men to the unanimous observance of a day of fasting and prayer, has probably been read by you all. In obedience to its suggestions, we have assembled to ask and implore Almighty God to bring our beloved country out of her

present conflict unmutilated, and to crown the efforts of the present Administration to prevent its dismemberment, with success. Here allow me to say, that the question which now upheaves the heart of the nation, is not a political question. He who asserts the Contrary, does not know what politics mean. It is purely a question of patriotism. Party politics has nothing to do with it, as is evident from the fact that all good and loyal men of all parties have buried their political differences, for the present, out of sight, and have united in the common cry: Whosoever, therefore, resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God ; and they that resist, shall receive to themselves damnation. This is the crime of high treason that covers and saturates the whole of our Southern Confederacy, as I shall prove ; and as the text is a divine proclamation against treason, it is a guide to the pulpit in our expositions of the duties we owe to the State and Government under which we live. Such being its character, it is a righteous war ; one in which we are warranted to rely upon God for aid, and one in the behalf of whose success public fasting and prayer are eminently proper. But if, on the other hand, as rebels say, it is a war of aggression, a war of spoliation, a war justified by the lust of conquest, whose end is the destruction of Southern rights, then our fasting and prayer are ofensive in the sight of Heaven, and our armies ought to be routed and slain. In the present critical position of our national affairs, no man can be neutral and guiltless, any more than he can be indifferent with regard to right and wrong. Therefore, the morality of this question brings it fairly and fully within the province of the pulpit for discussion ; and further, as we are responsible to God for the opinions we form, and the side we espouse, it is of the last importance that we avail ourselves of all the light we can get, to aid us in gaining right conclusions. War, and especially civil war, is one of the greatest scourges that can afflict any people. It brings every thing with it that can intensify suffering and distress ; a malignant evil that eats into the vitals of the body politic ; therefore, nothing is clearer than this truth, it should never be resorted to, even in the defense of asserted rights, until all other available means for rectification have failed. No discerning mind will dispute this, for it is a truth of simple intelligence, admitting of no supportable contradiction. Then, and not till then, is it proper to appeal to arms. But a war of defense is to be regarded differently. When an attack is meditated, or where hostilities have already commenced, duty is clear ; as in the case mentioned in sacred history to which our text refers. A vigorous defense must be made, if duty be done. This is so plain, it will bear no comment. The question, then, with us to-day is simply this: Is the character of this lamentable war such as will clearly justify us to seek the aid of God in behalf of our arms, by fasting and prayer? May we rely upon His help, if we depend on that alone, for victory "as did the King of Judah in his defensive war against the confederacy of the revolted tribes? We reply, Yes ; without hesitation, yes ; after candidly looking on the other side in search of a single respectable apology for its beginning or continuance, that will bear sifting. Suddenly the sound of secession falls upon the public ear. In a few months several States, to our amazement, revolt. They profess to have resumed their State sovereignty, and to have seceded from the Union. They construct a rival Federal Government. They take our Constitution, and alter it to suit their purposes. They organize a large army. They take possession of the property of the Union. They plunder one of its mints. They refuse to pay their debts to the Northern States, amounting to hundreds of millions. They announce their intention to take the Capital, and oust the lawful Government! Each of these acts is a declaration of war ; but to put the matter beyond dispute, they fire upon our flag, and reduce a fort by rebel batteries. These outrages follow in quick succession, and for months, are borne with in the hope that reason would surmount the madness. Lincoln has called upon the Northern States for armies to suppress it, and for every available means to put down organized treason, whose magnitude and audacity have appalled the country. At first blush, the world of common-sense would say, this outbreak is the overt crime of an unholy armament of treason ; and this war a defensive war, a righteous governmental measure to overthrow and crush rebellion. Such is my belief, and I proceed to assign my reasons. Whatever the complaints of the South against the North, just or unjust ; whatever their injuries, real or imaginary ; besides being constitutionally bound, they were, in all senses of Christian principle, honor, duty, and loyalty, bound to attempt a settlement before inaugurating civil war, the worst evil that can befall any people. Had they taken this preliminary step, and had been refused a hearing, and a fair chance to gain a peaceful division of the country, then it would have been time enough to assert the untenable doctrine of secession; then it would have been soon enough to have taken by violence the

forts, and arsenals, and navy yard, and other property of the Federal Government, which in no sense belonged to them, and appropriate the same to their own use ; then it would have been early enough to have denied that Government its constitutional right to carry provisions to a beleaguered garrison of starving men on its own soil, located there with no intent to invade, or in any manner interfere with the rights or immunities of the South ; then it would have been soon enough to have fired the first gun, by which they opened the horrid atrocities of a war, they well knew would bring all manner of evil upon the whole country. This they were imperatively bound to make the initiatory step, because the rights of the "South are just as amply protected by the Constitution as those of the North ; and on all hands, conceded to be as much entitled to defense by the entire force of the Federal Government. If, in their judgment, these rights, or any of them, had been invaded by any one or more States, or by any law inimical to their interests, they had their remedy as aforesaid ; and if that had failed, then there would have been some show of reason for commencing this war against that Government, with the avowed purpose to destroy it. Reasons, good and strong, they indeed professed to have, and to put forth, now and then ; but none knew better than these leaders, that it would not do to venture them into the ordeal of discussion in a convention of States, or even to submit them to the votes of their own people unterrified ; none knew better than themselves, that they should most miserably fail to sustain them, in the face of historic fact, incapable of being gainsaid. This was the cause of their precipitate and criminal rashness. A calm and fair discussion, in all probability would have been fatal to the scheme, and therefore they would not hazard it, but rushed their States into treason and armed hostility. This, too, was contrary to the advice of one of their most enlightened statesmen, who discouraged, and well nigh denounced this movement, as utterly unwarrantable and suicidal. The Vice-President of our Southern Confederacy, before he became the subject of such circumambient glory, made a most urgent appeal against secession, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, in Georgia, on the fourteenth of last November, a part of which I quote to prove that the South shall be condemned out of her own mouth: Stephens, " we are bound, before proceeding to violent measures, to set forth our grievances before the offending Government, to give them an opportunity to redress the wrong. Has our State done this? Suppose it were Great Britain that had violated some compact of agreement with the General Government, what would be first done? In that case, our Minister would be directed, in the first instance, to bring the matter to the attention of that Government, or a commissioner would be sent to that country to open negotiations with her, ask for redress, and it would only be after argument and reason had been exhausted in vain, that we should take the last resort of nations. That would be the course towards a foreign government, and towards a member of this confederacy, I would recommend the same course. Let us not, therefore, act hastily in this matter. Let your Committee on the State of the Republic make a bill of grievances ; let it be sent to those faithless States, and if reason and argument shall be tried in vain, all shall fail to induce them to return to their constitutional obligations, I would be for retaliatory measures. This mode of resistance in the Union, is in our power. It might be effectual, and if not, in the last resort, we would be justified in the eyes of nations, not only in separating from them, but in using force. Stephens for that speech, made only two and a half months before he was dignified as the Vice-President of a Confederacy, which, by his own showing, can never be accepted as honorable in the eyes of the world ; because the only course which could bring over their guilty heads a shadow of an excuse upon moral or legal grounds, for a disruption of this Union, the leaders of Southern affairs failed to pursue ; 16 rp: Now put alongside of these opinions of " Vice-President " Stephens, the official oath of President Lincoln ; the constitutional rights of the Federal Government ; its definition of treason long accepted by the South ; and finally the imperative duty of self preservation, the voice of " the first law of nature ;" and we affirm you have come to the end of the argument. This Rebellion is as wanton and wicked, as it is destitute of the semblance of justice, and indefensible by reason and conscience. And when it added outrage to insult, by opening its stolen cannon upon us, it forced the war upon the General Government as an unavoidable measure, and as a war of defense, which there was no honorable, no justifiable means of escaping. We are therefore plunged into civil war, against the will of the North, and against the will of the General Government. We can not help ourselves. Therefore we are justified in seeking aid from Almighty God by fasting and prayer. Another reason we assign for the truth of our position is this: Legislatures and conventions are servants, not

mas- ters of the people ; and whenever they attempt to force the peoj le by intimidating measures, they become tyrants as well as traitors. Such is the bad eminence of these Southern bodies. No ordinance to that effect, if valid at all, can be constitutionally valid with- out its being first fairly submitted to the votes of the people ; for as they alone have the power to create, so they alone have the power to dissolve forms of govern- ment. Now this matter of secession has not at all been given to the Southern people for their decision, except, perhaps, in one instance of a single State. This is a fact too well known to be successfully denied ; hence these legislatures and conventions, assuming tp-annical power, were traitors to their own State gov- ernments no less than to the Federal Government ; and having overawed and overridden the people, their con- stituents, they have stamped this whole movement as a mcked Eebellion, without any relief even from the plea of State sovereignty â€” a doctrine a thousand times exploded. Just a word on this. But secession is not a reserved riglit. It is not found in tlie Constitution. It could not have a place there, because one object of the formation of that instrument was to exclude it, and this was the great improvement upon the old Articles of Confederation.

Chapter 9 : Sermons and Outlines

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