

Stand Firm

Most, if not all, of you know that I am a teacher of history. I have spent the last 30 years teaching students from the ages of 9-19 the importance of learning the history of this great nation and our great state of Texas. The purpose of learning from our past is supposed to be so that we will not repeat its mistakes. Sadly, that is, in most instances, not the case. Sometimes we learn some really great lessons from history that we can use to make our lives better.

As I sit in my office in the annex this Monday, February 24, I'm reminded of an event that took place in Texas history some 178 years ago. On this date in 1836, Lieutenant Colonel William Barrett Travis wrote a letter that will forever be remembered in the annals of history. The Alamo has been surrounded by a Mexican force that far outnumbers the 180 or so defenders inside its walls. The letter is a call for aid. But it is more than that. It is an affirmation that the men inside will remain steadfast and defend the Alamo in the face of overwhelming odds. "I shall never surrender or retreat" and "victory or death" are the words Travis uses to encourage his men to stand firm.

I say all of that to say this: We who are Christians are facing overwhelming numbers. Satan has sent his minions to demand our surrender. We must stand firm against him and remain loyal to God. We must defend our Lord Jesus Christ to the death. Will it be an easy task? Not on your life. But, that is what we have enlisted to do.

Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:8-9:

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith..."

Jesus taught in Mark 13:13 that salvation awaits those who stand firm to the end. Paul taught us all in 1 Corinthians 15:58 that we should "...stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord..." Later in 1 Corinthians 16:13, we are told to "stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."

We stand firm, Paul says in Ephesians 6, because we are given the full armor of God. In order to defend ourselves and fight back, we have been given truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and prayer. These weapons will defend us from and strike a fatal blow to Satan and those he sends to tempt us to desert our King.

The men who defended the Alamo all died at the hands of Santa Anna. We,

however, have been promised victory over our enemy if we will only stand firm. “Death has been swallowed up in victory,” Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 15. “Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”