

"On Trial For CHRIST - Are You Guilty?"
(A Publication Of "The Inner-city Church Planting Mission")

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your FATHER which is in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16

I. The Importance of Standing Alone

It is very evident that we live in a very evil, dark, and wicked time. Murder, (including thousands of abortions a year), incest, sodomy, suicide, illegal drugs, immorality, divorce, rebellion, disease, (i.e. -A.I.D.S.), drunkenness, etc.

All of this because we live in a world that has no "fear of GOD". Indeed they have very little concept of GOD, if they believe that GOD exists at all.

Why has this terrible sequence of events taken place? Has GOD lost HIS power? Have events and circumstances raced out of HIS control? No . . . of course not. It is just that the "tools" that HE has chosen to do HIS work through have not been available. Those "tools"? You and I. The CHRISTians of this world.

Notice from our passage above (Matthew 5:13-16), that we are to be "salt" and "light" amidst this evil, dark, and wicked world. Just as light is in direct contrast and contradiction to darkness, we as CHRISTians are to be in direct contrast and contradiction to the wicked. When we are, the unsaved world will, ". . . see (our) good works, and glorify (our) FATHER WHICH art in heaven." But when we're not, we become ". . . good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

This is why it is so important that we as true born-again followers of JESUS CHRIST learn to "Stand Alone" for the sake of JESUS CHRIST! And truly we will have to literally "Stand Alone" many times, if we ever hope to make an impact on this wicked world for CHRIST!

Following is a list, both Biblical and contemporary, of men, women, and young people who realized "The Importance of Standing Alone", and were willing to take that stand . . . no matter the cost!

Note:First, just the names and how they were tempted to compromise will be listed. Then, under point II. "How To Stand Alone", we will look in more detail at how they stood against those temptations. Lastly, under point III. "The Rewards of Standing Alone", we will look at the tremendous benefits they received, and the resounding impact they made upon the world around them, because they dared to "Stand Alone" for JESUS CHRIST!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Temptation to Compromise</u>
1. Joseph in Egypt	Asked to commit immorality by his boss' wife. Genesis 39:1-10
2. Daniel the prophet	Asked to defile himself by eating food and drinking alcohol that was contrary to GOD's WORD. Daniel 1:1-6
3. Daniel's three young friends . . . Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah	Commanded to worship an image of gold. Daniel 3:1-6
4. John the Baptist	Tempted to lower GOD's standards concerning divorce and remarriage. Matthew 14:1-4
5. CHRISTian motel owner	Asked by a large corporation (which was his primary account) to allow liquor to be served in his hotel. If he refused, they would take their business somewhere else. He could not remain in business without that account.
6. CHRISTian manager of football team	As part of an "initiation rite", was asked to drink a can of beer as fast as he could.
7. Nine-year-old CHRISTian girl	Asked to participate in a séance at a slumber party.
8. Six-year-old CHRISTian boy	Told to color a picture of a witch at school.
9. CHRISTian woman at nursing home	Told to participate in a Halloween party and to serve alcohol there.
10. Pastor of a church	Asked to receive his salary from a business that sold ungodly products.

II. How To Stand Alone

How did these ten individuals Stand Alone? As we study in more detail how they responded to the temptation to compromise their GODly standards, we can formulate a list of three steps that we can follow to overcome this same temptation.

A. Be committed to standing alone, no matter what the cost.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Their commitment to stand alone</u>
1. Joseph in Egypt	<i>"But he refused, and said unto his master's wife "...How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against GOD?" Gen. 39:8-9</i>
2. Daniel the prophet	<i>"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the King's meat, nor with the wine that he drank..." Daniel 1:8a</i>
3. Daniel's three young friends . . . Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah	<i>(They) "...answered and said to the King . . . be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Daniel 3:18</i>
4. John the Baptist	<i>"There was a man sent from GOD, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the LIGHT..." John 1:6-7a</i>
5. CHRISTian owner of motel	He had always had a conviction not to sell liquor on his property.
6. CHRISTian manager of football team	He had determined never to drink alcohol.
7. Nine-year-old CHRISTian girl	She knew that a séance was an evil activity.
8. Six-year-old CHRISTian boy	Had been taught by his father what the BIBLE says about witches, therefore, he felt it was not right to color the picture of the witch.
9. CHRISTian woman at nursing home	Had determined that Halloween and alcohol were two activities a CHRISTian should have no part in.
10. Pastor of a church	Had determined never to accept financial support from anyone who had received their money from evil sources.

B. Be bold in proclaiming your standing alone,
no matter what the cost.

". . . the righteous are bold as a lion."
Proverbs 28:1b

<u>Name</u>	<u>Their bold proclamation in standing alone</u>
1. Joseph in Egypt	Same as previous column
2. Daniel the prophet	<i>"...therefore he (Daniel) requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Daniel 1:8b</i>
3. Daniel's three young friends . . . Mishael, Hananiah, and Azariah	Same as previous column
4. John the Baptist	<i>"For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her." Matthew 14:3-4</i>
5. CHRISTian owner of motel	Though he realized if he lost this account, he would lose his whole business, he boldly told the corporation's vice president that he could not comply with their request.
6. CHRISTian manager of football team	When he was handed the can of beer to drink, he very graciously explained, "I have given my life to JESUS and I am not able to do this."
7. Nine-year-old CHRISTian girl	When her girlfriend's mother announced at the slumber party that she would lead the girls in a seance and bring back a dead grandfather through a window, she quickly responded by saying, "I've given my life to JESUS and I am not able to do this."
8. Six-year-old CHRISTian	When the first grade teacher gave boy him the picture of the witch to color, he said, "I've given my life to JESUS and I can't color this picture."

9. CHRISTian woman at nursing home
Appealed to her boss by saying, "Halloween and alcohol are against my GODly convictions, and I can't participate in them." She then gave a "creative alternative", by offering to do something else to help during this time.
10. Pastor of a church
When he was asked to receive his full salary from the CHRISTian businessman who sold ungodly products, the Pastor graciously thanked the businessman for his offer, but explained that he could not receive it.

C. Willing to suffer for standing alone, no matter what the cost.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in CHRIST JESUS shall suffer persecution."
II Timothy 3:12

<u>Name</u>	<u>The persecution they received for standing alone</u>
1. Joseph in Egypt	<i>"And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the King's prisoners were bound, and he was there in the prison."</i> Genesis 39:20
2. Daniel the prophet	Did not really suffer persecution at this point, other than to eat a very bland diet of "pulse" and water for ten days. See Daniel 1:1-15
3. Daniel's three young friends . . . Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah	<i>"Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace."</i> Daniel 3:21
4. John the Baptist	He received the ultimate form of persecution . . . death! See Matthew 14:1-12
5. CHRISTian owner of motel	He lost that corporation's account, and thus lost most of his income. He ultimately had to sell the motel all together.

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| 6. | CHRISTian manager of football team | He faced the real possibility of being asked to go through a worse initiation, and the ridicule of the rest of the staff and team. |
| 7. | Nine-year-old CHRISTian girl | She faced the real possibility of being ridiculed and rejected by her friends. |
| 8. | Six-year-old CHRISTian boy | Accused by the teachers (to his father), of being uncooperative in school. |
| 9. | CHRISTian woman at nursing home | She was forced to quit by her boss (and thus not be eligible for unemployment compensation), at a time when her family was going through great financial difficulty. |
| 10. | Pastor of a church | He was led to refuse the support, though he had no job or unemployment compensation waiting for him. |

III. The Rewards of Standing Alone

Matthew 5:16 tells us that if we will let our ". . . *light so shine before men, that they may see (our) good works . . .*", these same "*good works (will) glorify (our) FATHER WHICH is in heaven.*" This is the main purpose for our existence here on earth . . . to glorify GOD. The following SCRIPTURES bear witness to this . . .

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of GOD."
I Corinthians 10:31

". . . that GOD in all things may be glorified through JESUS CHRIST, to WHOM be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
I Peter 4:11b

"THOU art worthy, O LORD, to receiver glory and honour and power, for THOU hast created all things, for THY pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11

But as mentioned earlier, another set of circumstances will be set in motion when we dare to "Stand Alone" for JESUS CHRIST. First of all, we will make a resounding impact upon an evil and dark world around us. Secondly, there will be tremendous benefits and rewards that we will receive now, and throughout all eternity. We see this, as we study the rewards that our ten mighty examples received as they dared to "Stand Alone" for JESUS CHRIST!

<u>Name</u>	<u>The rewards they received for standing alone</u>
1. Joseph in Egypt	He became the most powerful and influential man (next to Pharaoh), of the most powerful nation on earth. See Genesis 41:39-44
2. Daniel the prophet	He received " <i>knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom . . .</i> " from GOD (Daniel 1:17); eventually he was made " <i>ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.</i> " Daniel 2:48
3. Daniel's three young friends . . . Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah	The very King that wanted them murdered, eventually became a believer in their GOD (See Daniel 3:26-29); and they were promoted in the province of Babylon. Daniel 3:30
4. John the Baptist	JESUS HIMSELF said of John, " <i>Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist...</i> " Matthew 11:11 (See also John 5:35)
5. CHRISTian owner of motel	After he sold the motel for a very profitable amount, it was soon learned that the main highway in front of the motel was going to be re-routed. This was going to greatly decrease the value of the motel. The corporation that challenged the motel owner to lower his convictions was actually GOD's motivation to get him out of that motel before it lost its value!
6. CHRISTian manager of football team	The football team grew to respect this CHRISTian freshman. In the months that followed, several team members came to him for spiritual help; he explained to them the principles of Scripture!

7. Nine-year-old CHRISTian girl Because of her "Standing Alone", the girlfriend's mother stopped the séance. Two days later that mother and her family attended the girl's church to see what made her so courageous in doing what she believed was right!

8. Six-year-old CHRISTian boy A month after refusing to color the picture of the witch, the teacher who had asked the boy to color it was so impressed with him that she began attending the boy's church. The boy's father was the pastor. The teacher's husband began attending the church with her, and in a short time they became CHRISTians!

9. CHRISTian woman at nursing home Soon after being forced to "quit", she received a similar job with the county, for almost \$2.00 more per hour and twice as many benefits. She later had a chance to witness to the boss who forced her to "quit" while that former boss was in the hospital, recovering from a car accident!

10. Pastor of a church A few years later he was back in "full-time" ministry, after several churches and individuals offered to pick up his full financial support!

What we see here are the immediate results of these mighty men, women, and children "Standing Alone" for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. People were led to eternal salvation, and whole communities and nations were influenced for righteousness. Only eternity will reveal just how far-reaching the results have been.

Conclusion: We do indeed live in very evil days. Days where it will cost us something if we decide to live for JESUS CHRIST. Our career, our friends, our possessions, our family, . . . perhaps even our lives! But yet these are exciting days as well. Days where true CHRISTians can really make an impact on this world for the glory of JESUS CHRIST! This is what I hope you have learned from these teachings. That living for CHRIST . . . even dying for CHRIST, is really worth while!

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show HIMSELF strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward HIM."

II Chronicles 16:9a