

Lesson 4

Chapter 2 - *Scripture Memorization: A Must In These Last Days* (Continued)

1. a) What mind set and attitudes do you see that could have contributed to the demise of the Titanic, a disaster that has been called the *most tragic shipwreck in history*?

Apathy, ignoring obvious warnings, no contingency plan, trusting majority opinions, blindly embracing the status quo, clinging to a failing system even in the face of peril, choosing to believe what they wanted to believe rather than realistically facing unpleasant possibilities and hard choices, refusing to accept the possibility that the security and comforts of the moment could possibly be transient . . .

b) How many of the things you have listed above seem to be characteristic of many Christians today?

Apathy, ignoring obvious warnings, no contingency plan, trusting majority opinions, blindly embracing the status quo, clinging to a "system" that is starting to crack at the seams, choosing to believe what we want to believe rather than realistically facing unpleasant possibilities and hard choices, refusing to accept the possibility that the security and comforts of the moment could possibly be transient . . .

2. Using your Bible (and your concordance, if you choose) but without further reference to *The Sword*, list the six pieces of armor listed in Ephesians 6 and show how each finds its fulfillment in the eternal Word.

the belt of **truth**

*Father... Sanctify them by the truth: **Your Word is truth.*** (John 17:1,17, KJV) -

the breastplate of **righteousness**

*Father, **sanctify them (make them holy)** by Thy truth: Thy Word is truth.*

*I have hidden your word in my heart **that I might not sin against you.*** (Psalm 119:11)

*The **law of his God is in his heart;** his feet do not slip.* (Psalm 37:31)

*I take joy in doing your will, my God: **for your law is written on my heart.***

(Psalm 40:8)

the **gospel of peace**

Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. Psalm 119:165)

Note the correlation of **peace** and *Scripture* above, and of *peace and righteousness* in the Scriptures below.

*The fruit of righteousness will be **peace**; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.* (Isaiah 32:17)

... righteousness and *peace* kiss each other. Psalm 85:10

the **shield of faith**

... faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

the **helmet of salvation**

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

(Any Scripture about salvation would obviously apply.) Where do you find knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord outside of Scripture?

the **Sword of the Spirit**

... take the *Sword of the Spirit* which is *the Word of God*.

3. a) Compare Matthew 24:12-13 with Ephesians 6:12-18. What conclusion can you draw?

Emphasis on the word "stand" as it is used in both passages is paramount. Although we may not be the generation to see the prophecy of Matthew 24 fulfilled, no one knows how fierce the battle will rage before Christians are swept away in the rapture. Regardless, our Lord has ordered us to always be ready and to **STAND**.

b) Matthew 24:7-13 paints a very grim picture about what is in store for this world in the last days. True, we do not know if we will be the ones to see these things occur, but we do know that Satan and his demonic forces are constantly warring and plotting against us. In order for us to stand against his ever avid assaults, what specific orders are given by our Commander-in-chief in Ephesians 6:12-18?

Put on the full armor of God. Stand firm. Take the Sword of the Spirit. Pray in the Spirit. Be alert.

4. a) What is your personal response to the five questions asked on page 37?

b) How well prepared would you be if per chance you were, this day, facing a scenario similar to the one described in Matthew 24:7-13 — without your Bible?

c) If you knew for a fact that the end of your comfortable, secure world was looming dead ahead, would you rush to make any changes in your agenda? If so what?

What assurance do you have that we are not on a crash course with dire circumstances? When those on the Titanic arose that morning to a bright sunny day, they had no inkling of what was in store for them, nor did those involved in the tragic events in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001. But tragedy does not necessarily occur as suddenly as in these instances. Its approach may be much slower and more subtle. But it was just as devastating to the unsuspecting frog being brought to its demise as his comfortable environment slowly approached the boiling point.

5. Why is it important for a Soldier of the Cross to have God's Word etched on his heart and mind? Use the allegory of a soldier in a physical conflict to explain your answer.

A Christian in battle without God's Word in his heart is much like a soldier leaving his weapon on the coffee table when he goes off to war. He would thus be without protection, without marching orders, without nourishment, and without direction. What chance would such an one have in combat?

6. a) Do you consider yourself to be on the front lines of battle, spiritually? Explain your answer.

Every believer is on the front lines of battle, whether he knows it or not, whether he wants to be or not, whether he is prepared or not.

7. Scripture tells us that the Lord sees our lives as if they were already lived (Psalm 139:16b). He knows every thought before we think it, every word before we say it, every move we will make before we make it. Ponder for a moment: Could the admonitions you are receiving in this course regarding the importance of Scripture memorization possibly be an insignificant coincidence? Do you think the Lord could possibly intend for them be a mere "flash in the pan" as far as your overall Christian experience is concerned?

Food for Thought: Are you not convinced that memorizing blocks of Scripture is not only an important step toward balancing your data base, it is vital preparation for spiritual warfare, not just to be prepared for a continuation of what we have experienced in the past, but anticipating spiritual warfare and evil that could well exceed anything this old world has ever known.

