

# The Bishop's Corner

## *Be Strong in the Grace*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life: that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (II Timothy 2:1, 3-4).

We must be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and not in our emotions, temper or will. We must learn to be like Christ and let his mind become ours. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8).

Sometimes difficulties come, but we must be strong in the grace and endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. We cannot fight this good fight of faith for the Lord and be wrapped up in things of this world. We must do the will of God and not be so entangled in the affairs of this life to the point where we stop being godly.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (I John 2:15-17).

The gospel we preach is that of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is where we stand and it is the bottom line of our faith. “Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead, according to my gospel” (II Timothy 2:8).

Jesus Christ makes us righteous. Therefore, we must never allow ourselves to become unworthy of everlasting life, but endure unto the end and not faint. “Therefore, seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not. But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not handling the word of God deceitfully; but, by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God” (II Corinthians 4:1-2).

God bless all of you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction

