

I Am Set For the Defense

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Anything that is considered valuable is worth defending. A quarterback has a line of defense to protect him as he strives to move the ball downfield. The men on this line assume a certain posture as they prepare to confront a massive bombardment of human flesh that will literally run them over and take down the quarterback if they are not set. The armed forces prepare lines of defense to protect important places, equipment, and people. These lines of defense are set to remain in place as long as necessary. As Christians we, like apostle Paul, must be set for the defense of the Gospel (Philippians 1:17).

The Gospel is precious indeed and worth every line of defense. As I mentioned last week, it is God's power to save (Romans 1:16). It is able to save our souls (James 1:21). By the word of God, we are born again (1 Peter 1:23). Our souls are worth more than the whole world (Matthew 16:26). Thus, something that valuable is worth defending at all costs. The Gospel provides a sure foundation for the church to stand on. Thus, we should never cower to the false teachings of the world or to the illogical, namby-pamby gibberish often used to sway people in the wrong direction.

While attending the school of preaching at Southwest in Austin, my wife and I met a young lady in her early twenties who was a member of that congregation. While talking to her she told us how she was converted. She had been a staunch Baptist. One day she heard the preacher at Southwest teach against the errors of denominationalism. This made her mad, so she showed up to one of the services to teach that preacher a thing or two. Unbeknownst to her, brother Gary Colley was set for the defense of the Gospel, and she was converted to the truth. If he had not been set for the defense, there would have been one less soul saved, and error would have triumphed over truth.

The wonderful thing about the Gospel is that it provides its own line of defense. The word of God can stand on its own; it is the powerful and skillful sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). "*The word of the Lord endureth forever,*" 1 Peter 1:25, and His "*words shall not pass away,*" Matthew 24:35. However, God expects US to wield that sword to conquer the evil enemy of sin. God still seeks for those "*that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before*" Him, Ezekiel 22:30. Brethren, we must be set for the defense of the Gospel! This is a job for Christians and Christians only. The world cannot do this because they are not of God, they are not for Him, nor are they with Him. The word of God makes up the Christian's armor and prepares him for battle (Ephesians 6:10-18). However, if you will notice, there is no armor for the back. If you turn tail and run, Satan's fiery darts will find their target in the area that is unprotected! Put on the armor of God, set yourself for the defense of the Truth, and stand in the gap.