**Standing Up for Gospel Truth**by Don Allen

Where are the **Real Statesmen** who will **Stand Up** for Jesus without compromise?

We all know God planned and ordained Jesus to die on the Cross. But have we ever thought about **what** got Jesus nailed to the Cross? We know **who** did it—religious leaders. We know **how** they did it –by false-hood and stirring up the people. We know **why** Jesus was nailed to the Cross—it was God’s plan for our salvation. But, **what** actually got Jesus nailed to the Cross? **What** was it that tripped-the-trigger of the religious folks? Could it have been **What** Jesus stood for? Jesus took a **stan**d and it cost Him His life! Jesus **stood** for something that was not always in line with religious and political issues of His day. Jesus was a real “**Statesman,**” **standing** on what He knew to be true. Jesus did not waver or waffle-- change, vacillate, remain neutral, or talk nonsense. Jesus took a **stand**, the chief priest and elders took offence. Why were they offended? Because Jesus represented a threat to their comfort-zone. Jesus **stood** for “Truth, Holiness, and Obedience.” This was in direct contrast to the religiosity of chief priest and elders.

**My goal today** is to stir up and stimulate our minds. To challenge ourselves, our thinking, our life style, and make us take a closer look at what we are **standing** on! Do we have our arm around Holiness or Worldliness?

The chief priest and elders were people pleasers. Jesus was a “Heavenly Father” pleaser. They spoke religion, Jesus spoke “Truth.” They taught rituals, Jesus taught “Holiness.” They practiced customs, Jesus practiced “Obedience.”

 What Jesus **stood** for got Him nailed to the Cross by the chief priest and elders. These religious leaders could not handle someone upsetting-the-apple-cart or disrupting the status-quo. They were very comfortable in their robes, rituals, and religion. The last thing they wanted was someone messing with their comfort-zone. Now, some 2,000 years later, as we’re about to enter the 21st century, I ask myself, what has changed since those days? Am I different? Are we any different? Is society any different**?**

 **Where are the statesmen**!? Where are those willing to take a **stand**, no matter the cost!? And what about those comfort-zones? To what extent are we going to protect our little comfort-zone? **Where are the real statesmen**? Those who **stand** for Jesus Christ without waffling – changing, vacillating, remaining neutral, or talking nonsense. **Where are the real statesmen**? Those who preach and teach “God’s Word.” All of it, undiluted, without watering it down with compromise or political correctness. What about those of us who call ourselves Christians? Have we been lulled into a false sense of well-being? What about American Christianity, with its peace, prosperity, and blessings in abundance? Teaching only that which tickles the ear and makes us feel good! **Is this the “Real Thing?”** Are we secure in our little comfort-zones? Once a week gatherings, smiles on our faces, One hour and a half of feed me, bless me, and give me! Then so much for that, I’ve got a busy schedule, see you next week Lord! Of course I’m a Christian, I attend church every Sunday. I even go to a “Bible Study” once in a while. “**Is this the “Real Thing?”** As Christians,do we mean what we say and say what we mean? Example: Is the Bible “God Breathed inerrant Word of God” from Genesis to Revelations? (2 Tim.3:16). Did God mean what He said and say what He meant? If so, then why do we throw out scriptures we don’t like? Or water them down, or simply ignore them?

Let me give you a few Examples: **1 Cor.14:34** “Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. 35And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.” **Luke 16:18** “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.” **2 Thes.3:10** “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.” **2 Tim.3:12** “All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” **Mark 16:17** “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18theywill take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” These are just a small sample of scriptures we don’t like, water down, or simply ignore!

To justify these actions, the politically correct term is “rightly-dividing -the-word, or true interpretation.” Another famous one is “It’s not for today.” Do we speak with our mouth “The bible is God Breathed, Inerrant, Word of God” and in our next breath proceed to explain away those scripture verses not to our liking?

 **I started out by asking this question**: What actually got Jesus nailed to the Cross? There are a number of answers, but one in particular is: Jesus **stood** for something. **Secular Proverb**: those who **stand** for nothing will fall for anything. What do you **stand** for? Or have you taken a **stand** at all? Do you **stand** for Jesus, Bible, Truth, Holiness, and Obedience? Or have you been lulled into a false sense of well-being by a watered-down Gospel of compromise? What affect has a daily diet of garbage had on you? Watching secular TV and videos, reading secular books, magazines, and listening to secular radio, does have an effect on our lives. It’s called “Garbage-in and Garbage out.”

**Shifting gears:** From questions to statements: If you’re going to take a **stand**, the first thing to do is look at what you’re **standing** on! Are you **standing** on solid rock, or shifting sand? You’ve heard about the dumbing down of Americans through the secular education system. Now let me tell you about the Desensitizing of Christians by the gospel of compromise. (To make less sensitive; less sensitive to light; to reduce or the eliminate sensitivity of a person) We don’t like to admit it, but the truth is modern day Christians have become less sensitive to today’s world with all its sin & evil. Today’s church tolerates things within the body of Christ that ought not to be. And contributing to that is the dumbing down of “God’s Word, Teachings, and commands.”

To prove this, one has only to sit down and make a list of activities for the last month. How much time is spent watching TV or videos? What did you watch? How much swearing, sex, and violence did you see? Were you offended? Why didn’t you flip the “off” switch? How much time was spent in prayer and reading the Bible? List all the names you can think of in sports activities. Now list all the names you can think of from the Bible. Next to each name list all you know about that person. Results speak for itself. Do you partake of “substance?” Or worse yet sell it to others?

What about the Sabbath? Do you keep it Holy? Or is it business as usual? Even now I can hear the screams from the defenders of the status-quo; the cry from the lukewarm-do-gooders, pew warmers, scribes, and Pharisees. “Legalist! Legalism! We’re not under the law, we’re under grace! Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Jesus died for us and set us free from the law of sin and death!

When I hear people scream “Legalism” I’m reminded of the 8th Chapter of John. Jesus is having a conversation with Jews and they’re just not grasping what He’s telling them. In verse 39, Jesus says: “If you were Abraham’s Children, then you would do the things Abraham did!” I think this cuts right to the heart of the matter. “If I’m Jesus’s disciple, then I will do the things Jesus did.” **Jn.14:12**“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”

Jesus took a **stand**, the religious leaders took offence. People knew **where** Jesus stood and **what** He stood for. Jesus followed a path which lead out, away from any comfort-zone. In fact, it led to His death on the Cross. And Jesus says to us today: “Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take **up** his **cross** daily, and follow Me.” **Luke 9:23**. The Jews knew where Jesus **stood**. They didn’t agree with Him! Called Him a Samaritan and demon possessed. **Jn.8:48**. But they knew where Jesus **stood** on the issues of the day.

Perhaps I’ve wandered down a few rabbit trails along the way in all this, but **the main point I’m trying to communicate is this:
Stand up, Stand up** for Jesus! ye soldiers of the Cross,
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss:
From victory unto victory His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.
**Stand up, Stand up**, for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict, in this glorious day.
Ye that are men, now serve Him, against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.
**Stand** in His strength alone; the arm of flesh will fail you;
ye dare not trust your Own.
Put on the Gospel armor, and watching unto prayer,
where duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there.
The strife will not be long: this day the noise of battle,
The next the victor’s song; to him that overcomes, a crown of life shall be;
He, with the King of Glory, shall reign eternally.
**Stand up, Stand up**, for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the Cross,
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss.

I hear God “Calling His Church” to **stand up**, have some backbone, some intestinal fortitude, some courage, and be soldiers of the Cross. Yes, soldiers are shot at, wounded, or even killed. That’s to be expected! There is no greater cause to die for, then that of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we live in a nation of compromise and sin. Led by the most wishy-washy, spineless, compromising, leaders in the history of our nation. Our country is ruled by sodomites—(gays-to be politically correct.) Why? Because they **stood up** for their beliefs and were willing to fight for their cause. To our shame, we sat in our padded pews, intimidated by their threats. We believed the lie of separation of church and state. We’ve allowed **politics** in the church, but kept the church out of **politics**. We don’t need **politics** in the church, but, God help us, we need the church in **politics**. We are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. For too long we’ve been hiding under the steeple, building castles for our comfort, and crying, feed me, bless me and give me! When the real battle cry should be: “**Get thee behind me Satan**” Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the Cross of Jesus going on before.)

**2 Tim.2:3** “Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” **Jer.12:5** “If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in the safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?” If you retreat to the comfort and safety of peace and prosperity preaching, what will you do when trials, tribulations, and persecutions come? If Christians are lulled into a false sense of wellbeing, desensitized by a corrupt society, and a lukewarm church, What will they do when the real test comes? If consuming and selling alcohol, watching TV, movies, and videos, with sex, violence, swearing, and divorce, is acceptable and harmless, Then surely a simple little mark on your hand or forehead will be acceptable and harmless also. After all, to live we must eat, and to eat we must be able to buy and sell. How easy it is to rationalize and justify our excuses for compromised worldliness.

Just because we’ve not been able to overcome an addiction, bad habit, or our worldly ways, that does not mean self-justification excuses us from judgement**.** Wrong is still wrong and sin is still sin, regardless of what politically correct name we attach to it. We may call it “substance abuse” but a drunk is still a drunk. We may call them “Gay” but perversion is still perversion. We may call it “sexual freedom” but adultery is still adultery. We may call it “Pro-Choice” but murder is still murder.

**Isa.5:20-25** “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! 22Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, 23Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man! 24Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts,
And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. 25Therefore the anger of the Lord is aroused against His people; He has stretched out His hand against them And stricken them, And the hills trembled. Their carcasses *were* as refuse in the midst of the streets.”

It’s only a movie! It’s only rated PG! **What’s the Big Deal?** Do you think Jesus would sit there watching adultery, sexual perversion being promoted, and listening to God’s name being used in vain? Desensitized Christians will sit there for hours. A righteous man is distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men.

A righteous man may live among them day after day, but he is tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he sees and hears. Are you tormented in your righteous soul? Or do you still ask, “**What’s the Big Deal?” 2 Peter 2:7** “God delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8(**for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds**) 9then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.”

**This is the “Big Deal”: 2 Peter 2:4-22** “For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly**;** 10and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. 12But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, 13and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. 15They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Besor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained the madness of the prophet. 17These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. 18For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgement. God did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people. God condemned Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes. Making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.

**This is the “Big Deal”: Heb.10:26-31** “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.
28Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” 31It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

**This is the “Big Deal”: 2 Pet.3:10** “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?) (Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought we to be? We ought to live Holy Godly lives! And make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with God.”

**This is the “Big Deal” 1 John 2:6, 15-17** “He who says he abides in Jesus ought himself also to walk just as Jesus walked. 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

**1 Pet.1:13-16** “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

**1Pet.2:1-3, 11**  “Therefore, rid yourself of all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and **slander** of every kind. 2as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.v11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.”

**What’s the “Big Deal?” Math.12:36-37**  “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the “**Day-of- Judgment.”** 37For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

**Math.16:24-27** Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

**What’s the “Big Deal?”** Jesus already came as the “Lamb of God”; Soon Jesus is coming as the “Lion of the Tribe of Judah”. There is a big difference between a Lamb and a Lion!

**Gal.6:7** “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

**Gal.5:16-18** “**Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Surely this is the “Key to Holiness and Legalism” We are called to be free. But we must not use our freedom to indulge the sinful nature.

I’m talking about **standing & taking a stand!** **1Cor.16:13** “Be on your guard, “**Stand Firm**” in your Faith, be men of courage, be strong.”

**Phil. 1:27** “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Stand** **firm** in “**One Spirit**”, contending as one man for the Faith of the Gospel.”

**1 Thes.3:8** **Stand firm** in the Lord. **2 Thes.2:15** **Stand firm** in teaching. **Promise Keepers**: “Raise the Standard” **Eph.5:15** “Be very careful how you live, not as unwise, but as wise, making most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”.

The whole idea is to **Stand Up** for Jesus and make a commitment to become a soldier of the Cross of Jesus Christ. As I look up the words **Stand and Sit** in the concordance, I noticed, as they’re used in the New Testament, that **Stand** is an action we are to do here and now in this world, right up to when we will all **Stand** before “God’s Judgement Seat” **Rom.14:10**). Whereas **Sit** is an activity taking place in the next age, God’s Kingdom, Heaven. Another action word used frequently is **Go. Math.28:19** “**Go** make disciples of all nations and teach them to obey everything I commanded you.”

 **The way I see this:** If we **Go** make disciples and **Stand** against evil, we won’t have time to **Sit** on our “Blessed Assurance.” What is it that prevents so many Christians from **Going** to preach the Gospel or **Standing** against evil? I call it the “Comfort-Zone.” Our flesh seeks comfort day and night. We avoid any situation that brings discomfort. That is why so many preach the “**Gospel of Compromise**,” watering down the Word, so the congregation won’t get upset. Our fleshly desire to be loved & accepted by others, often over rules our desire to obey our creator. It’s not easy to **Stand** against evil. It’s not easy to preach the gospel in a godless society. But then, it was not easy dying on the Cross either.

In this respect, not much has changed over the past 2,000 years. What got Jesus nailed to the Cross by the religious folks was His **stand** against formal religious traditions. Those being persecuted in America today are the Faithful Few, the “**True Statesmen**” Standing on God’s Word, believing what it says, and saying what they believe. They are doers of the Word and not hearers only. They know the reality of **2 Tim.3:12** “Everyone who wants to live a “Godly Life” in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted**, while evil men and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” They stopped building castles for their comfort. No longer hiding under the steeple, they took their Cross into the market place. They are the true light of the world and salt of the earth. Paul wrote in **1 Timothy** **4:3,** “The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine, instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from truth and turn aside to myths.”

Surely, that time has come! It behooves all of us to face that reality and ask ourselves some tough questions. Do I come to church to have my itching ears tickled with words to suit my own desires? Am I willing to leave my comfort-zone and **Stand up** for “Jesus & His Holy Word” as a soldier of the Cross? Is my Christianity a religion or a relationship? How much have I been desensitized by the corrupt society I live in? Am I offended by all the sex, violence, profanity, and perversion on TV, videos, movies, and the internet? Or do I just sit there and soak it all up like everyone else?

**Eph.5:1-20** “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. 3But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7Therefore do not be partakers with them. **Walk in Light** 8For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9(for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **expose them***.* 12For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13But all things that are **exposed** are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14Therefore He says:“ **Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead**, and Christ will give you light.” **Walk in Wisdom** 15See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; **but be filled with the Spirit**, 19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21submitting to one another in the **fear of God**.”

**Gal.5:16** “Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of your sinful nature.” **Eph.6:18** “Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and request. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Stand Up--Stand Up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the Cross. Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss!

**The Preacher’s Blessing**And now may the Lord Bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, giving you “His Peace.” Numbers 6:24-26) May you run beneath the sheltering wings of the living God. May the Holy Spirit and His purging fire cleanse you from all forms of leaven, so that you are not puffed up, but only filled with His presence. May the Peace of God that surpasses all understanding be in your house, filling your children and your children’s children. We are the property of the Lord of Hosts and want to **Stand** before Him cleansed, sanctified, and purified by the blood of Jesus Christ. In the authority of His Holy Name, we pray and say…Amen!