



The Weapons of our Warfare, Part 1

from the desk of Pastor John

There is a war going on! The fighting is intense and rages every day. Many people are seriously injured, and countless lives are being lost. The war is not being fought in a specific country on a conventional battlefield. This war is being fought on the battlefield of the hearts and minds of people. It is a relentless battle for the truth! Truth is the perpetual target of the enemy, and the casualties are the souls of men, women, and children. This battle for the truth has raged since Satan entered the Garden of Eden and first spoke to Eve.

Satan has had innumerable allies helping him deceive multitudes and obscure the truth. From false prophets to fake news, the assault on the truth is a constant battle.

Like any war, you must know who the real enemy is and which

weapons will be effective against them. In other words, you don't use a slingshot to fight against an aircraft carrier. In the battle for the truth, God identifies the enemy and what weapon we must use. God tells us about our enemy in **Ephesians 6:12, For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the**

“Our weapon—the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God—is the only effective weapon in the war for the truth.”

world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Since the war for the truth is against spiritual

forces, we need appropriate weapons. Fortunately, God has given us the weapons we need. In addition to clothing ourselves with the armor of God (Eph. 6:13-17), He has given us the only weapon effective against our spiritual adversary—His holy Word! This weapon is

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enough. See what the Apostle Paul said in **2 Corinthians 10:3-5, For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.** Our weapon—the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God—is the only effective weapon in the war for the truth.

The enemy has tried to destroy the

Weapons of Warfare

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Bible both literally and figuratively. More than one wicked leader has declared war on the Scripture, trying to gather every copy in existence to physically destroy them. Obviously they failed miserably. A much more effective battle plan targets the credibility of the Bible. This battle rages on in classrooms, pressrooms, social media platforms, and sadly, even in pulpits all over the world. Many “preachers” today seem to do little more than skim the surface of the Scripture hoping to stumble across a sentence they can use as a launching pad to give a sermonette that will not offend the sensitivities of any of the unbelievers that fill their churches or watch them on TV.

While the battle for the truth rages, many of the soldiers in God’s army remain ill-equipped for the fight, not knowing how to effectively use their weapon. Hebrews 4:12-13 lists seven distinct marks of God’s Word that give us confidence that it is the most effective weapon in the battle for the truth and thus the souls of men and women.

Hebrews 4:12-13 says, **For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** ¹³ **And there is no**

creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

The first distinctive mark of this weapon is that *it is the Divine Word*. Our weapon in the battle for truth is **the word of God**. This is God’s book! It is not a collection of ancient religious writings. It is not a history book, nor is it an ancient literature book or a collection of poetry and prose. It is a divine book! Various parts of Scripture are referred to as “the commands of God” (Deut. 8:11), “the statues of

God” (Deut. 8:11), “the oracles of God” (Heb. 5:12), “the promises of God” (2 Cor. 1:20), “the ordinances of God” (Deut. 8:11), “the law of God” (Ps. 37:31), “the utterances of God” (1 Pet. 4:11), “the counsel of God” (Ps. 33:11), “the instruction of God” (Isa. 1:10), “the

word of the LORD” (Isa. 1:10), and “the mouth of God” (Isa. 1:20). While the words of the books of the Bible were scribed by men, the author of the words is God. When the Bible speaks, it is the voice of God. When the Bible commands, it is the authority of God. When the Bible condemns it is the judgment of God. When the Bible comforts it is the love of God. The Bible is divine in origin, divine in its message, and divine in its authority.

The divine origin of the Bible is reiterated many times. For instance, **Hebrews 1:1-2** says, **God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in**



Spotlight



on our volunteers



Dale Coppess

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

~1 Peter 4:10

Eastridge member Dale Coppess has spent his adult life serving others. He heeds God's call to serve others and is so willing to help where help is needed.

When asked about the grounds ministry that he spearheads, Dale commented that he thinks he started mowing and caring for the grounds before Pastor John came to Eastridge in 2007, but he's not completely sure. It's safe to say that Dale has been serving in this ministry for a lot of years!

Week in and week out during the growing season—rain or shine—you will see Dale riding the John Deere around the church campus mowing the grass. In the fall months, Dale shows up to blow the leaves off the parking lot and gardens, a big undertaking given the number of trees on the grounds!

In addition to keeping our grounds looking neat and tidy, Dale serves in a variety of other ministries. Beginning in 2010, he joined our Awana

ministry serving as Sparks Director and Sparks Game Director. When Eastridge introduced the Adventure Club program in 2020, Dale continued mentoring our young ones through his roles as a small group leader and Game Director for the Adventure Club Scouts (K through 2nd grade kids).

Dale has also served as an usher and continues to be part of the group of chair ministry volunteers who set up the chairs in preparation for Sunday worship services. Dale has served in this vital ministry for several years now.

Dale, thank you for your dedicated service to Eastridge and our Lord through the various ministries you serve in. We appreciate you!



JOIN US FOR LUNCH

New Attenders' Luncheon

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022 @ 1:00pm
Eastridge Baptist Church



Enjoy a delicious lunch

Ask questions about Eastridge

Meet the elders

Watch for a sign-up sheet in the foyer or contact the church office at 253.630.2327 or info@eastridgebaptist.org.

Eastridge 101



Are you interested in becoming a member of Eastridge or would just like to know more about what we believe? Then Eastridge 101 is the class for you. Join us at Eastridge on **Sunday, March 20** from 1:00am to 4:00pm for this informative class. Lunch is provided.

Eastridge 101 is a prerequisite for membership at Eastridge but does not obligate you to become a member. Watch for a sign-up sheet as the class date approaches.

Weapons of Warfare

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these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. God revealed His truth through His prophets and then through His Son. The Old Testament prophets claimed to be speaking for God when they said, "Thus says the Lord..." or "the word of the Lord..." or "the Lord said..." and similar phrases. In the

New Testament God spoke through His Son and His apostles. **Matthew 4:4, But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS**

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD." The Apostle Paul affirmed in **Galatians 1:11-12, For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.**

The divine message of the Bible reveals the mind of God. **1 Corinthians 2:6-8** tells us, **Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the**

rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The Bible is God's wisdom to His children, and it is therefore a divine message. Paul affirmed this again in **1 Corinthians 14:37, If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him**

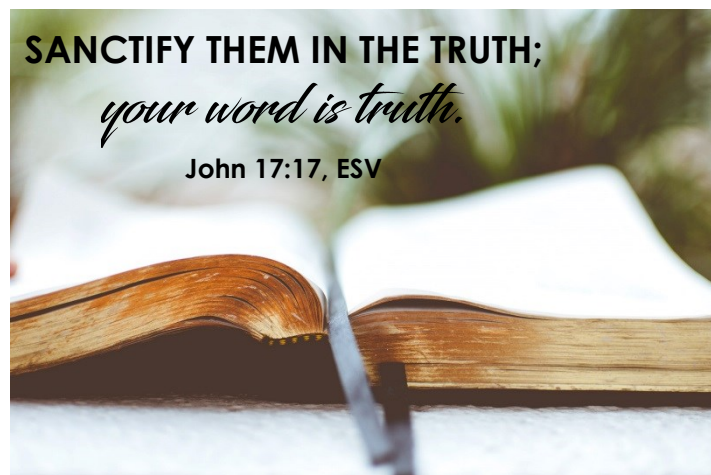
recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

Since the Bible has a divine origin and gives us a divine message, it possesses divine authority. Therefore, the Word of God deserves our attention and demands our obedience. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** says,

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. When we heed the divine authority of the Word of God, we find that we are being equipped to win the battle for the minds and souls of man.

Look for part 2 next month!

“When we heed the divine authority of the Word of God, we find that we are being equipped to win the battle for the minds and souls of man.”



Bags of Hope

by Ken Lilly

Thanks to the generosity and prayers of many, both here at Eastridge Baptist and elsewhere, The Bags of Hope outreach in Yangon, Myanmar this past Christmas season was the biggest yet!

A little over \$16,500 was raised for the project. The team in Yangon distributed 1,731 gift bags for the kids, each with toiletries, flip flops, and toys; and 1,610 18-pound bags of rice to the families. Each family also received a gospel tract in Burmese.

Below is some wonderful news I received from Pastor Daniel of the Agape Myanmar Mission Church last month:

“Brother, what a great joy and happiness for me to let you (know) that on 25th, December, I did water baptism for 19 new believers (17 women and 2 men) who have accepted Jesus on our salvation seminars that we did on different dates and the gospel that we shared throughout this year. The wonderful good news is some of them are from the slum near the Bible college in Yuzana where we started to give BOH since 2018. Brother, God didn't put our labor, money and toil in vain. Praise the Lord for the saved souls because of the ministry of Bags of Hope. Surely, there must be a great joy and banquet in heaven for these 19 souls as the

Bible says.”

As part of this year's follow-up, Daniel will be holding a 3-day salvation seminar in February with a portion of the funds that we raised. Please be in prayer that many more will be saved as the Good News of Jesus Christ, the living God, is shared with them again.



Distribution of bags near SE Asia Bible College



Daniel (holding Bible) baptized 19 new believers on Christmas Day. “In His name the nations will put their hope.” Matthew 12:21

What Is the Church?

from the desk of Pastor Samuel

The Greek word *ekklesia* is translated “church” in modern Bible translations and simply describes an assembly or gathering of people. Though the English word *church* can be used today to describe a building, a local congregation, a denomination, and more, there is a common thread that connects them: they all consist of a gathered group of believers who meet with a predetermined purpose in mind. For Christians, the purpose of the gathering is clear: “The church is the body of people called by God’s grace through faith in Christ to glorify him together by serving him in this world” (Mark Dever, *The Church: The Gospel Made Visible*).

While the fundamental purpose of *any* gathering of Christian individuals is to glorify and serve God and His people, it is most

evident in the consistent Sunday gathering of local congregations of believers (*ekklesia*) around the world. *Ekklesia* is used 114 times in the Bible, and the majority of those uses signify a local congregation of believers. This focus on the local church in God’s Word helps us understand just how important He views our gatherings. He has laid out what a church should look like and how it should act.

So, how does the local church help us develop an all-encompassing love for God and a self-sacrificial love for others as commanded by Jesus in Matthew 22:36-40? There are two fundamental marks of the church gathering that help believers grow in their

faith: “true preaching of the Word [and] proper observance of the sacraments” (Edmund Clowney, *The Church*).

The church is the primary source of biblical teaching for the corporate body of Christ. Each individual believer is still obligated to study and understand Scripture on their own. But additionally, in the church service, we have the blessing of hearing a spiritually mature man explain a passage so that we all understand it together. Through this time our faith is strengthened, and our unity in the church is built up.



The word “sacrament” is often replaced by “ordinance” in the church today and refers to the observances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper (or communion). These ordinances represent and commemorate the sacrifice of Christ, and by their communal nature they draw a local congregation

together in their shared faith in Christ. Baptism is a declaration by a believer of the Lord’s transforming work in their life, followed by a visible representation of their death to sin (being lowered into the water) and new life in Christ (raised out of the water). The people in the congregation who have come to saving faith and been baptized can rejoice with their fellow believer and gratefully look back on their own baptisms and the Lord’s faithfulness in their lives. The Lord’s Supper is communal in nature as each member of the church eats the bread and drinks the cup together as a visible representation of Christ’s body broken on the cross and His blood that sealed the new

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What Is the Church?

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covenant for Christ's followers.

Faithful preaching of the Bible indicates that church's desire to faithfully *understand* the message and commands of Scripture. Proper

observance of these ordinances indicates a church's desire to faithfully *carry out* the same message and commands. A genuine, faithful church is characterized in this way.



Birthdays

Natalie Reeves 2/1
Gayle Franklin 2/2
Donovan Elliott 2/5
Avery Bonn 2/5
Pat Haylor 2/6
Megan Cummings 2/6
Kaitlin Hammett 2/7
Chris Morales 2/8
Addie Skeith 2/9
Jann Hughes 2/9
Kaylea Merrill 2/9
Kim Rasmussen 2/11
Felicity Elliott 2/14
Curtis Blake 2/16

Ron Grimstad 2/16
Tim Fulton 2/18
Jorge Ramos 2/18
Trinity Reed 2/18
Anna Williams 2/19
Wesley Blakey 2/20
Cora Hurst 2/21
Caleb Mickelson 2/23
Susan Rehberg 2/23
Shannon Guevara 2/23
Ken Koenig 2/24
Jeff Robinson 2/25
Kim Turnbull 2/25
Ethan Keating 2/25
Tom Horne 2/26

Benjamin Kerr 2/26
Loye Reas 2/27
Elle Skeith 2/28

Anniversaries

Ryan and Natalie Reeves
2/2
Mike and Diane Carlton
2/3
Ken and Laura Botka 2/8
Curtis and Jean Foster
2/18
Kent and Jolyn Barber
2/21
Bill and Joanne Thomas
2/26
Jordan and Amanda
Olson 2/29

Do you have a February birthday or anniversary but don't see your name listed? We'd love to celebrate you! Please contact the church office at 253-630-2327 or email kim@eastridgebaptist.org and we'll get you added to our birthday and anniversary list.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30–8:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00am—12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study	3 10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	4 8:00am Men's Bible Study	5
6 6:00pm Prayer Meeting	7 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	8 10:30am Missions Prayer Ministry (@ Alaire Irish's) 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30–8:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00am—12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study	10 10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	11 8:00am Men's Bible Study	12
13	14 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	15 10:30am Missions Prayer Meeting 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30–8:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00am—12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study	17 10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	18 8:00am Men's Bible Study	19
20	21 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	22 5:00pm–8:30pm Taekwondo 6:30–8:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00am—12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Adventure Club 6:30pm Youth Group 6:30–7:30pm Adult Bible Study	24 10:00–11:30am Ladies' Bible Study 5:00–6:30 Bible Quizzing Practice 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	25 8:00am Men's Bible Study	26
<i>Youth Winter Camp</i>						
27 Communion	28 2:00–3:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 6:30–8:00pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	 FEBRUARY 2022				

March 2022

Sunday, March 6	New Attenders' Luncheon	1:00pm (Auditorium)
Sunday, March 6	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, March 8	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Sunday, March 20	Eastridge 101 Class	1:00–4:00pm (Auditorium)

April 2022

Friday, April 1	Women's Charcuterie and Chit Chat	7:00pm @ EBC
Sunday, April 3	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Saturday, April 9	Church Workday	9:00am–2:00pm
Tuesday, April 12	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Friday, April 15	Good Friday Service	6:30pm @ EBC
Sunday, April 17	Easter Sunday	Services @ 8:30 & 10:30 No Sunday School
Saturday, April 30	Church Workday	9:00am–2:00pm

May 2022

Sunday, May 1	Monthly Prayer Meeting	6:00pm (Auditorium)
Tuesday, May 10	Missions Prayer Ministry	10:30am @ Alaire Irish's
Saturday, May 14	Church Workday	9:00am–2:00pm
Saturday, May 21	Ladies' Craft Morning	10:00am–12:00pm (@ EBC)

LOOKING AHEAD



O Church Arise

Keith & Kristyn Getty

O church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died:
An inheritance of nations

Arise, shine for your light has come
Arise, shine for the Risen Son
Lift your eyes, we are His radiant bride
Arise, o church arise!

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride;
Give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in Glory.

Arise, shine for your light has come
Arise, shine for the Risen Son
Lift your eyes, we are His radiant bride
Arise, o church arise!

Arise, shine for your light has come
Arise, shine for the Risen Son
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EASTRIDGE
BAPTIST CHURCH