

The Sentinel

A WARTIME NEWSLETTER

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WAR TIME

CHRISTIAN LIVING IN A PERILOUS PURSUIT OF GOD

INSIDE: *We are in a War!* by Preston Sanders

The War Within by Bob Hausmann

Called to Freedom by Gregg Schalk

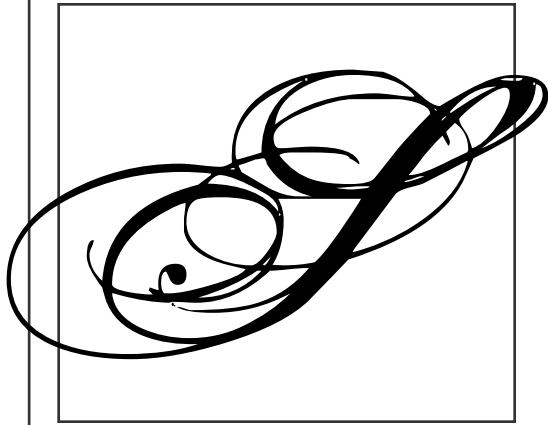
What is your hope in? by Rebekah Bricker

from the FRONTLINES by Abigail Bricker

Caleb Schalk

♦PLUS: A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

The Sentinel Newsletter



“So he may run who reads it...” Habakkuk 2:2

“Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

The Sentinel, A WARTIME NEWSLETTER, serves as an extension of the preaching and teaching of Strasburg Baptist Church. Our goal is to inform, equip and deliver to you spiritual encouragement according to biblical study.

If you, or someone you know would like to be added to our mailing list, just let us know.

Recommended Books TO AID IN TIMES OF WAR

The Knowledge of the Holy
by A.W.Tozer

Worship Matters
by Bob Kauflin

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fyi: Personal copies of the Church Calender of Events, Birthdays & Anniversaries are available at the church office during normal office hours, or in the church foyer.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

words and music by Martin Luther
translated by Frederick H. Hedge

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood, Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe –
His craft and power are great, And armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God’s own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He –
Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same – And He must win the battle.

And tho this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph thru us.
The prince of darkness grim – We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, For lo! His doom is sure – One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers – No thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Thru Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still – His kingdom is forever.

WE ARE IN A WAR!

A STUDY OF BIBLICALLY STRATEGIC FIELD MANUAL BASICS

by Preston Sanders

pastor, Strasburg Baptist Church

As Christians, born again believers through our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, we are soldiers of God in Christ. Scripture tells us many times that we are soldiers of God (1 Corinthians 9:7, Philippians 2:25, Philemon 1:2, 2 Timothy 2:3-4) and we should be living to please our commanding officer, Jesus Christ. As a soldier we must be focused on the task at hand; focusing on the battles all around us for the souls of man. As good soldiers, we must be intentional about how we live our lives and ensure we don't waste energy on civilian affairs that will never make any difference to our Commander, or for His Kingdom.

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. 2 Timothy 2:3-4

To be effective soldiers for our Commander Jesus we must know and practice many Scriptural truths. Two of the most important are: 1. We must know our enemy 2. We must know our weapons, both offensive and defensive. Ephesians 6:10-18 plainly reveals the truth about the war we're in, the enemy we battle against and the weapons God has given us for victory. Please read and heed.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:10-18

The war we are a part of is a struggle. We must understand that we can not fight this war in our own power. We get our strength in the Lord and in His mighty power. Far too often we try to fight in our own power and we can never win because our battle is not against flesh and blood, therefore it can never be fought in the flesh. Take note and remember "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers,

against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

As mentioned earlier, to be an effective soldier we must not only know that we are in a war and the type of war we're in but we must: 1. Know our enemy 2. Know our weapons.

1. Our (humanities) enemy, the devil

Oh yes, he is real and he is our enemy. Yes, he's the one waging war, even though he is already conquered through Christ's death, burial and resurrection. For the time being, God, in His sovereignty; is allowing the devil to battle on until his time is done and he is thrown into the lake of burning sulfur. (Revelation 20:10) To do battle with the devil we must submit ourselves to God and resist the devil and he will flee. (James 4:7) Always be alert. *Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8*

2. Our weapons, the full armor of God

We do battle when we learn how to properly put on and handle our weapons, or military hardware, as listed in Ephesians 6:13-18. Our military hardware is much different by definition and practicality than that of a soldier of this world. Look at the list below. **Truth** is the belt that holds everything in place. **Righteousness** is the breastplate that protects our vital organ, our heart. **The Gospel of Christ** must be known and understood to be ready to move into battle. **Faith** (in Christ) is the shield we need to *extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.* **Salvation Assurance** in Christ's work on the cross protects our minds so that "we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming." Ephesians 4:14. **The Word of God** is our offensive weapon. To be effective we must learn to correctly handle the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15) **Pray in the Spirit** and pray for the saints, our fellow soldiers. This is the only way we can fight. Praying in the Spirit, through Jesus supplies our strength in the Lord so that we may be mighty in His power for His glory.

Lord, may we all be filled with Your strength and power through Your Spirit that we at Strasburg Baptist Church might be prepared to go forth in battle and be victorious for Your glory. Amen.

Pastor Preston

“ *There's things you have to be intentional about when you're a soldier. Know your weapon. Know your enemy.* ”

The War Within

by Bob Hausmann

IF YOU WOKE UP ONE MORNING, looked out your window and discovered that you were in the middle of a war zone with a battle raging all around you, would you change your morning routine? Would you spend your waking moments differently if you realized that others were trying to destroy you at that very instant? How would you react right now if you realized that you must fight to preserve your life?

Surely, if you found yourself in these circumstances, the actions you took, the things you thought, and your sense of urgency would all change.

Well, wake up! Hear the trumpet call for battle! Lock and load. Prepare your minds for action. Keep sober and alert. You ARE in a war zone and the battle IS raging. You are being threatened with destruction constantly from all quarters. Know that your life is at risk!

Sound a little overstated to you? Seem like hyperbole? Maybe this is just a little bit of journalistic exaggeration to get your attention, right? Well, maybe, ... but maybe not?

Actually, it is not an exaggeration or an overstatement to say that the Christian life is a life lived in a constant state of war, a perpetual struggle, a battle field where the violence of killing is common. Other articles in this *Sentinel* make that case and describe one of the enemies of this war, namely Satan, who is your arch enemy and adversary. Satan prowls around seeking to devour you like a lion tears its prey to shreds. That reality underscores the sense of urgency and pending doom if you are not vigilant in preparing for battle and waging war by resisting the enemy, standing firm in your faith, weapons ready.

Satan and his minions are indeed enemies waging war on one battle front. There is another battle front, however. It is the battle of the heart, the war within.

The war within for the believer is a battle pitched between the remnants of our sinful nature and the workings of our new nature born of the Spirit.

Peter speaks of the war within as follows: *“Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.” 1 Peter 2:11*

Peter views the sinful desires of our old nature (i.e. our fleshly lusts) not as mere bad habits (as we are prone to

think), but as warring enemies that seek to destroy the soul. Peter, therefore, calls the early church to radical wartime action: desist and abstain from fulfilling your rogue and treacherous desires.

James writes similarly: *“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel.” James 4:1-2*

James pins the antagonist in the raging internal war as your pleasures. Our sinful nature takes our God given desires for pleasure (e.g. like the desire for the pleasures of food, sex, rest, accomplishment, etc.) and twists them into lusts that wage war within us, within our members. The out-of-control pleasures become enemies that seek to rule our heart and tumble us into sin which ultimately kills us. Our sinful pleasures become an instrument of death to us.

Paul says it this way: *“I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?” Romans 7: 21-24*

Paul acknowledges that there is a conflict within, a raging war between the resident evil within (i.e. his sinful nature) and law of his mind which intends to do good (i.e. his renewed mind in Christ). Paul is unable to end the conflict by his own power and so he cries out to be delivered and set free from the hostilities within.

All three New Testament writers describe the inner struggle between our old sinful nature and our new nature, which is created in the image of Christ, as a raging war within. The battle is constant, fierce, unrelenting, and for high stakes. There is no rest or furlough from the battle front. There is no vacation time. We can't fight this battle remotely using high tech weaponry. We must be fully engaged in the trenches at all times. The Christian life is not a casual coasting or a game or a walk in the park. It is war. It is a continual fight that is real, gritty, bloody, violent, and for keeps.

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is forcibly entered and violent men

seize it for themselves by force.” Paul exhorted Timothy to *“fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.”*

So, we must ask how are we to fight the battle within? What must the Christian do to fight and win the internal war with our old sinful nature? In short, the answer is to depend on your Captain, Jesus, to decisively fight for us as we fully engage the enemy in a struggle to the death.

Here is how Paul exhorts the church: *“So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:12-14*

Our call, then, is to be killing the deeds of the body; to be putting to death the deceitful desires that wage war against our soul; to be fully engaged in the war within. And, the way we wage war, the way we kill the lusts of our flesh is by the Spirit - i.e. in the power of Christ. We take up the sword of the Spirit, the offensive weapon of the word of God, and we slay everything that seeks to rule our heart and master us.

So, when deceitful desires raise their head and speak lies to us that they are worthy to be our master, we look to Jesus and remember that He alone is our King, our Lord, our Sovereign, our Savior, and our Redeemer. When evil impulses arise tempting us to fret and worry about life's circumstances, we do battle by looking to the promise that Jesus will never leave us or forsake us, and that God is for us, so who can be against us. When the twisted pleasure of lust woos us to indulge with a look or an act, we remember that Jesus has brought us into the throne room of God by His precious blood, and now in the presence of God there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.

Each day, every hour, moment by moment, with each advance of the enemy and with each charge of our warring deceitful desires, we battle by faith, looking to the risen and reigning Christ and the promises of His word, and we trust Jesus to be and do all that He promised.

Fellow soldiers, look to your Captain, the Lord Jesus, and let Him slay the enemies that wage war against your soul by the sheer glory of His Presence and the majesty of His Might. Look to Jesus in faith and fight to win the war within.

Called to Freedom

Christ Has Set Us Free: Be Fruitful

by Gregg Schalk

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

At the brink of the American Revolutionary war in 1775 the great American patriot, Patrick Henry, rose to motivate a convention contemplating going to war or not. In some of the most famous American words spoken, he said “There is no retreat, but in submission and slavery!...The war is inevitable—let it come!...Gentlemen may cry, peace, peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun...Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me give me liberty or give me death!”

Patrick Henry was promoting the type of freedom that would unhinder them from the oppressive rule of the British. That freedom was declared and signed by our forefathers on July 4, 1776. We must continually practice and live by it or we lose it. In essence, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, first said take my liberty or you die.

Jesus Christ, the everlasting Word, declared those abiding in Him free from the tyrannical rule of death, devil and debauchery by nailing the declaration to the cross. (Colossians 2:14-15) Being enemies to God and destined to eternal death, our peace treaty with Him was signed by Jesus’ blood. Thereby our relationship with God is made right by faith in having our sins transferred to Christ and His righteousness poured into our soul. (Colossians 1:20-21, 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Because of our loving Savior, He freed us from the law’s requirements for justification and the law’s penalties leading to eternal death. We are free from relying on the law to be righteous before God. Under the law, you are under God’s wrath when you fail. (Galatians 3:10) No one in history has ever been able to live perfectly, keeping the whole law. (Galatians 3:11,13) Once you break one law you’re under its curse. Christ fulfilled the symbolic meaning of the ceremonial law, because these laws foreshadowed Him. Christ fulfilled moral law living a perfect life. Because Christ fulfilled all the law, he redeemed us from the law’s requirement by being a curse for us when he hung on the cross. (Galatians 3:13) Now that Christ became a curse for us, we are free from sin’s penalty, the wrath of God, eternally executed in hell.

We are free from the law of death. (1 Corinthians 15: 21-26) Christ overcame death when he was resurrected on the third day giving us hope for a glorified immortal body, because as Christ was raised, we too will be raised to eternal life. The raising of Christ proved His atonement/sacrifice satisfied God’s righteous demands.

Because of our soul-satisfying Savior, we are free from the devil accusing us as lawbreakers. When we sin, Satan accuses us to be guilty. That sin leads to death, but now Christ has destroyed this power of the devil, freeing us from his rule. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

Are we free to do anything? We are free from the law to be counted righteous before God, but we are not to use our freedom as a springboard to satisfy our sinful nature, (Galatians 5:13) indulging oneself with sin or disobeying the moral law. We have freedom to serve and not to sin. Jesus protects us from this evil, self-indulging age (Psalm 46, Galatians 1:5) that is marked by works of the flesh and delivers us into His kingdom to be led by the Spirit to be fruitful.

Because of our wonderful Savior, He purchased our freedom from this debauchery, that is, self-centered and self-righteous living. Those who put on Christ are free from self to serve God. Those in Christ are free from producing the works of the flesh, selfish passions and desires, (Galatians 5:19-21) to producing Holy Spirit cultivated fruit (Galatians 5:22-23). In Christ we are free to crucify the flesh, radically changing our behavior (Galatians 5:24) so that by following the Spirit’s guidance (Galatians 5:16, 25) we will subdue the flesh and ripen our character. Trying to clean out the sinful nature on our own strength is futile and fruitless.

Patrick Henry saw his fellow countrymen already fighting and was trying to encourage those not involved to join the fight for freedom. Those in Christ already have their freedom declared; we need to join in the fight of faith for our freedom (1 Timothy 6:11-16). How do we do that? We fight by being Holy Spirit led fruit dispensers out of love for others. We seek the Holy Spirit’s leading to figure out who and how we are to love.

How do you get this freedom? Surrender your soul to Christ to be free in Christ. Hear and believe the words of Christ (John 5:24-25, 8:31-36). Remember ‘Christ has set us free’ by the Cross. And only Christ can set us free!!! No attempt on our part will set us free from sin and God’s wrath. If your life is continually marked by the works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:19, you haven’t been set free. Only the free enter into God’s kingdom (Galatians 5:21).

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13



deliberate discipleship

by Bob Hausmann

DISCIPLES OF JESUS NEED NOT BE AFRAID. Jesus constantly called the disciples to put away their fear even when the disciples thought they had good reason to fear.

Once the disciples thought they saw a ghost walking on the water and they cried out in fear. It was not a ghost. It was Jesus and he said to them, "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid".

Another time, there was a violent storm at sea and the disciples feared for their lives as they strained at the oars of their boat. Jesus calmed the sea and chastened the disciples for letting their lack of faith turn into fear.

Still again, on a mountain top, Jesus was transfigured before some of the disciples and His face shone like the sun. God the Father then spoke from heaven and said "This is my Beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; Listen to Him". The disciples became terrified and fell on their faces. Jesus intervened and encouraged the disciples to get up and not be afraid.

So, whether disciples of Jesus are faced with the scary unknown, or whether they are in the midst of treacherous circumstances, or whether they are in the presence of a Holy God, the call of Jesus is the same – "Do not be afraid". The reason for fearlessness is that Jesus is with you – He abides with you. Jesus comes to you and makes the unknown knowable. His presence calms the treacherous seas. His blood advocates before the Holy Father on your behalf. Disciples of Jesus need not fear. Christ tells us, "It is I, do not be afraid."

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE IN?

The Sentinel asks, you answer.

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15

"2 Corinthians 5:21. My hope is in Christ, who bore my wrath and guilt, and covers me with his righteousness."

-Danny Weir

"My hope is in the sovereign God who is Creator, Savior, Comforter, Provider, Protector, Counselor and Lover of my soul!"

-Liz Bricker

"By grace, because I am prone to wander, my hope is set on the grace that will be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13"

-Bob Hausmann

by: Rebekah Bricker

from the **FRONTLINES:**

IN THE TRENCHES Update & Review

HOMEFRONT: OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE AND INTO THE WAR ZONE by: Abigail Bricker

THE SBC ACTEENS are a group of young women seeking to live lives that are biblically based and mission focused. They recently spent two days serving the Lord in an African Immigrant community in downtown Kansas City. On November 7, they teamed up with mission planting Pastor, Omar Segovia, and members of Southern Central Baptist Church. Together, they went door to door throughout the community handing out videos that portrayed Jesus' life from manger birth, to cross, to resurrection. These videos

told of Christ's ministry, his love and the salvation he offers freely. They also handed out praise and worship CD's translated into the Somali language and audio of the New Testament. Little children they encountered received blankets and teddy bears. While traveling through the neighborhood, they invited the people to a book fair that was to be held the following Saturday, November 14, at Southern Central Baptist Church. This book fair offered Bibles and books in several of the languages that are spoken in this community as well as many

children's books. The Lord provided many of these books through the book drive held at Strasburg Baptist Church. They also handed out cotton candy and provided a moon walk for the children to jump and play in. This exciting and educational event was well attended and much appreciated by those in the community. Angela Allard, Acteens Director, summed up the day, "It's almost too hard to put into words... we had people coming up and confessing their sins and asking for help. It was bigger than anything I could have ever imagined."

This mission activity was a huge step out of their comfort zone, yet these young women trusted their amazing God and his faithfulness to guide them and help them be bold and loving. In their desire to glorify the Lord and further his kingdom, these Acteens have jumped into action and are hoping that the people from this downtown community come to know Jesus, who is the living water and the bread of life!

Jesus answered 'I am the way, and the truth and the life: No one comes to the Father except through me.' John 14:6

FOREIGN FIELD: SBC SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES JOSE AND SHARI SALAZAR: GUATEMALA

by: Caleb Schalk



all the orphanages presently existing in the Central American country of Guatemala, most of them, if not all, lack what it takes to prepare a child for life and to equip him spiritually. This is largely due to the fact that the orphanages have many children

and few caretakers. The children living in the orphanages usually come from a background of abuse and trauma. These children are provided food and shelter by the orphanages, but food and shelter do not help their souls. Jose and Shari Salazar, missionaries in Guatemala, have served in more than one of these orphanages and

have seen the need that these children have for individual attention and spiritual guidance. Jose and Shari live in the town of Chichicastenango, where they have built homes for widows, helped to set up feeding programs, tutored missionary as well as local children, and worked with the youth in the

Guatemala City dump through a yearly camp. The Salazars always knew that their primary calling was to work with kids, and after seeking the Lord's will they began planning their own home for displaced children. This vision is now becoming a reality. Under the organization Missions Frontier,

the Salazars have already completed construction of their home, Casa Salazar. Jose and Shari want Casa Salazar to be a place where six to eight displaced children can have a loving, permanent Christian home where they can be taught the way of the Lord Jesus. They see their home as

to page 6

FRONTLINES continued...

from page 5

more than just an orphanage—they want the children to be part of a family. They would like to their first children to arrive at Casa Salazar by February, 2010, but there is still paperwork to be approved by the Health Department, Education Department and the National Council of Adoptions. The Health Dept. going on strike has caused things to slow, and the Salazars request prayer for the approval of their paperwork. Once the paperwork for the home is approved, much will still need to be done. Before receiving all children, the Salazars must add on to the home. As of now, Casa Salazar legally houses only two children. They request prayer in this matter. In addition to continued monthly support from SBC, others have been generous. Last month, the 7 and 8 Grade Sunday School class purchased and shipped needed items to Casa Salazar for children who will be in their home. Meanwhile, Jose and Shari have continued to be active in other ministries. Recently, they partnered with Potter's House Ministry in Guatemala City to offer a camp for youth whose parents make their living by scavenging in the dump. This is the seventh year the camp has been held, and 20 teenagers attended. They got to experience many activities, such as a trip to Lake Atitlan, morning English classes, games, baking, cookout, building a house for someone else in need, and devotions based on John Piper's book *Don't Waste Your Life*. "The youth were fairly quiet about *Don't Waste Your Life*," Jose and Shari commented. "It was pretty new to most of them. They weren't very responsive during the week, but we hope seeds were planted." At the camp, the Salazars used books purchased with the money raised at a 'God Is Enough' missions conference here at Strasburg Baptist Church last August. "The books were a huge blessing," said Jose. "We're really grateful to those who helped at the conference. I pray God will draw the people of Chichi to Christ." Jose and Shari also request prayer for their new baby, Rebekah, and for the people in Chichi that they minister to. They are surrounded by witchcraft and alcoholism in this mountainous region. The Salazars truly are emissaries of Christ in Guatemala, fulfilling the words of James 1:27: "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

If you would like to learn more about the Salazars and their home for children, visit

<http://www.missionsfrontier.org/casasalazar.html>

If you would like to sign up for their monthly newsletter, The Mission, write, themissionnewsletter@gmail.com

notably quoted:

Be killing SIN
or SIN will be killing you.

-John Owen

You will not know what prayer
is for until you know that
life is war.

-John Piper

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A WARTIME NEWSLETTER

The Sentinel

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Galations 1:3-5