

# Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for  
November 24, 2024



[trinityreformedct.org](http://trinityreformedct.org)

*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful." – Colossians 3:15*

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"\*" = Please stand if you are able.

## Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

### Call to Worship – Romans 8:35-39

*Leader: Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*

**People: Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution,**

*Leader: Or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written,*

**People: For Your sake we are being put to death all day long;**

*Leader: We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.*

**People: No, in all these things**

*Leader: We are more than conquerors*

**People: Through him who loved us.**

*Leader: For I am convinced that neither death,*

**People: Nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,**

*Leader: Nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*

**People: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing,**

*Leader: Will be able to separate us from the love of God,*

**People: Which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession

### Gospel Absolution Text – John 14:27

**\*Hymn #363** (red hymnal) – “We Gather Together”

### Scripture Reading – Matthew 10:16-42

**Ancient Creedal Reading** – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

## Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

**\*Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Sung Psalm #56B** (red hymnal) – “You Have Recorded All My Ways”

## Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## Reformation Creedal Reading – Heidelberg Catechism, Q#1-2.

*Leader: Question: What is your only comfort in life and in death?*

**People: That I am not my own,** 1Cor 6:19-20

*Leader: But belong—body and soul, in life and in death—* Rom 14:7-9

**People: To my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.** 1Cor 3:23; Titus 2:14

*Leader: He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood,* 1Pet 1:18-19;  
1John 1:7-9; 2:2

**People: And has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.** John 8:34-36; Heb 2:14-15;  
1John 3:1-11

*Leader: He also watches over me in such a way* John 6:39-40; 10:27-30;  
2Thes 3:3; 1Pet 1:5

**People: That not a hair can fall from my head** Matt 10:29-31;

*Leader: Without the will of my Father in heaven;* Luke 21:16-18

**People: In fact, all things must work together for my salvation.** Rom 8:28

*Leader: Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit,* Rom 8:15-16; Eph 1:13-14

**People: Assures me of eternal life** 2Cor 1:21-22; 5:5

*Leader: And makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready*

**People: From now on to live for him.** Rom 8:1-17

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*Leader: Question: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort? (There are) Three things:*

**People: First, how great my sin and misery are;** Rom 3:9-10; 1John 1:10

*Leader: Second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery;* John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43

**People: Third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.** Matt 5:16; Rom 6:13;  
Eph 5:8-10; 2Tim 2:15;  
1Pet 2:9-10

## Ministry of the Word

### Prayer of Illumination

**\*Sermon Text** – Revelation 6:3-6

**\*Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**Sermon** – “The Second & Third Horsemen”  
(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

**\*Hymn #715** (red hymnal) – “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

**\*Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

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*All are welcome for Fellowship & Food downstairs after Worship*

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## Upcoming Special Events

- The **Deacon's Fund** (used for those in need in the church) **needs to be replenished**. To give, you can put a specially marked donation in the collection plate or on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month a special collection plate is put out for the fund. Thank you for your support.
- Pastor Doug's **Tuesday & Wednesday Studies** are canceled this week (Nov 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.) because of Thanksgiving.
- **Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!** Christ's grace and peace to you and yours.

## Upcoming Events

- TRC is doing **Operation Christmas Child** this year. If you are interested, please bring items for the shoe-boxes by November 24<sup>th</sup>, including: toys, toiletries, school supplies, clothing, etc., and if possible, a \$10 donation to cover shipping. OCC is a mission by the Christian nonprofit Samaritan's Purse which gives out shoe-boxes as gifts to unreached, underprivileged children throughout the world. Through these gifts, children partake in The Greatest Journey, a 12-week course about the gospel of Jesus. If you have any questions, please contact Mason Goodell at 860-806-6437 or goodellmas@gmail.com.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Calvinist **Christmas Party** will be at the Grange on Friday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 PM. It is a pot-luck, so if you could bring a dish to share it would be helpful.

## Regular Weekly Events

|                  |                                  |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sunday</i>    | 9:00 – c.10:00 AM                | <b>Sunday School</b><br>Children's curriculum: KVB Publications<br>Women's Study: Baucham's <u>Expository Apologetics</u><br>Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism |
|                  | 10:30 – c.11:40 AM<br>c.11:40 AM | <b>Worship</b> (Lord's Supper on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)<br><b>Coffee Hour Fellowship</b>                                                             |
| <i>Tuesday</i>   | 10:30 AM – Noon                  | <b>Tuesday Study</b> (Evangelism in Acts) at Pastor Doug's house                                                                                                       |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 6:30 – 8:00 PM                   | <b>Wednesday Study</b> (on Exodus) at Pastor Doug's house                                                                                                              |
| <i>Friday</i>    | 6:30 - ??? PM                    | <b>Young Adult Discussion Group</b> at Pastor Doug's house<br>(1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fridays)                                                              |
| <i>Saturday</i>  | morning                          | <b>Prayer Group</b> at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)                                                |

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## ONLINE RESOURCES

|                               |                                                             |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>TRC's Webpage:</i>         | TrinityReformedCT.org                                       |
| <i>TRC's Facebook Page:</i>   | facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/ |
| <i>TRC's Youtube Channel:</i> | youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT                              |
| <i>Pastor Doug's</i>          | youtube.com/simplyreformed                                  |
| <i>Youtube Channels:</i>      | youtube.com/@PilgrimsOfPlunder                              |

## INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: [trcnwprayer@gmail.com](mailto:trcnwprayer@gmail.com). (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

## LEADERSHIP

|                       |                                                                                |                           |                                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Elders:</i>        | Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor                                                   | 860-379-1147              | douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net       |
|                       | Bob Ensminger                                                                  | 860-485-8738              | robert.ensminger@arthurgrossell.com |
|                       | Rich Gabelmann                                                                 | 860-605-7852              | rgabelmann0415@gmail.com            |
|                       | Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek                                                       | 203-709-0784              | jhaulenbeek@icloud.com              |
| <i>Deacons:</i>       | David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters |                           |                                     |
| <i>Sunday School:</i> | Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell                                                   | <i>Music Coordinator:</i> | Cindy Rines                         |
| <i>Clerk:</i>         | Sheryl Gabelmann                                                               | <i>Treasurer:</i>         | Cindy Rines                         |

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## Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – Phone: (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – Email: trinityreformedct@gmail.com

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## Sermon Notes

“The Second & Third Horsemen”

Revelation 6:3-6

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7

November 24, 2024

### Introduction

- 1) This is the Sunday before Thanksgiving.
  - a) I was toying with preaching the sermon I did last week (about our Lord and His Gospel being the White Horsemen and all the blessings He brings) this week.
  - b) Besides, it means the Sunday before Thanksgiving you get the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> horsemen of the Apocalypse – Death & Famine.
- 2) But we are Calvinists! We enjoy grim “puritanical” preaching!
  - a) We also believe in expository preaching – to carefully work through a section of Scripture, going where it is going no matter what it teaches.
  - b) And we believe holidays, at the very least, should always be subordinate to the Word of God.<sup>1</sup>
- 3) Thanksgiving, however, is a very biblical concept.
  - a) Psalm 69:30 – *“I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving.”*
  - b) It is easy, because of our fallen nature, not to appreciate all the blessings we have received.
  - c) Hearing how much sin can affect us in this world should make us appreciate the many blessings we have now.
- 4) We all have things we are wrestling with in our lives, however, none of us are facing death through war or famine, which has been the norm for mankind throughout history and including today.<sup>2</sup>
  - a) Do you know how many armed conflicts are happening today in the world?
    - i) 30 countries are facing “extreme” or “high” levels of conflict, with Ukraine, ranked #15 at a “high” level. Mexico is #4.
    - ii) The USA has been involved in 13 armed conflicts in just the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  - b) Praise God for His mercy and the earthly bounty and peace He has given us!  
Let us be thankful.

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<sup>1</sup> Historically, the Congregationalists believed in the **regulative principle of worship**, that only what is commanded in Scripture should be part of worship. Thus, the early Puritan banned all holidays, save the Sunday Sabbath.

<sup>2</sup> <https://acleddata.com/conflict-index/index-july-2024/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_ongoing\\_armed\\_conflicts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ongoing_armed_conflicts)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_wars:\\_2003%E2%80%93present](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars:_2003%E2%80%93present)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_wars\\_involving\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_involving_the_United_States)

5) In “this age” (the time we live in before Christ’s glorious return and the “end of this age” to usher in the “new heavens & new earth”) there will always be war, both temporal and spiritual, though we certainly pray for and desire peace.

Luke 16:8; 18:30; 20:34, 35;  
Matt 12:32; Eph 1:21; 1Tim 6:17;  
2Tim 4:10; Titus 2:12; Heb 6:5;  
2Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1ff

## **Overview of Revelation 6**

1) We are in Revelation 6.

- a) Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, is opening a sealed scroll which is God’s plan for creation.
- b) Only Christ, the Lamb, can reveal and execute God the Father’s plan.
- c) Pastor Doug is arguing Seals 1-5 are about this age.

2) Last week we heard about the First Horseman (Rev 6:1-2), on a white horse, who is Jesus Christ.

a) The 1<sup>st</sup> Horseman is unique: White is a symbol of goodness in John’s writings (whereas red, black, and certainly ashen, are viewed negatively in the Bible), only the White Horseman has a crown, only He is announced with thunder, and only He has no negative thing directly attached to Him. Rev 19:11ff

b) Christ, and His Gospel, have been going forth since the first Pentecost, two thousand years ago, conquering and to conquer.

c) Thus, Christ’s Gospel is going out to all the nations, getting all the elect throughout this age. Matt 28:18-20; 24:14; 2Pet 3:8-9; Rev 20:1-6

d) Sealing the saints with the Holy Spirit, covering us with the blood of Christ, and giving us perfect peace with God the Father. John 14:27; 16:33; 20:19; Rom 5:9; 2Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; Rev 1:5

3) The Amillennialist<sup>3</sup> reading of Revelation (Pastor Doug’s approach) argues good and evil will go back and forth throughout this age. Matt 24:6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9

a) There will be times of blessings and peace, both temporal (of this world) and spiritual (of Christ’s Kingdom), in this age.

b) And there will be times of degeneracy, war and/or social or economic collapse in this age.

c) They will go back and forth, and there will always be a mixture as this earthly city<sup>4</sup> based on sin, clashes with the City of God<sup>5</sup> based on Christ.

4) This mixture continues until the very end, when after a short period of great evil (call the Great Tribulation), the Lord Jesus returns to judge and to bring in the new heavens and new earth. Matt 24:21; Rev 2:22; 7:14; Rev 20:1-22:15

a) The Idealist<sup>6</sup> reading of Revelation sees this throughout the Book of Revelation.

b) Which describes the ages in seven sections which repeat the story. Going from this age, to the tribulation, to the age to come.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Amillennialist believes that the thousand years in Revelation 20 refers to the period between Christ’s 1<sup>st</sup> Advent (birth, death, resurrection, etc.) and His 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent (return at the end of the age).

<sup>4</sup> Gen 4:17; Matt 6:24; 22:21; Mark 12:17; Luke 16:13; 20:25; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Rom 13:7; 2Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2; 6:12; 1John 4:4; 5:19.

<sup>5</sup> Ps 46:4; 48:1-2,8; 87:3; 101:8; Is 1:26; 48:2; 52:1; 60:14; Dan 9:24; Ezek 48:35; Zech 8:3; Matt 4:5; 5:35; 27:53; John 18:36; Phil 3:20; Eph 2:19; Heb 11:10,16; 12:22; 13:14; Rev 3:12; 21:2,10,(2-27); 22:19.

<sup>6</sup> Idealism is a way of reading Revelation that believes the majority of Revelation focuses on this present age and that the most of the images in Revelation represent the “idea” of something and not a particular thing or person.

- 5) Though it is true that war will continue throughout this age, remember Revelation is written to the church.
- a) Written around 95 AD, to the tiny early church who was facing persecution by the Roman Empire. Rev 1:9
  - b) Revelation is primarily focused on the spiritual realities facing the church, not temporal things like earthly politics, such as who is going to win the Roman-Parthian Wars or will America still be a great power at the end of 21<sup>st</sup> century?
- 6) Christians will not know full peace (i.e. lack of strife) in this world because of Christ. Matt 10:34-35; Luke 12:51-53;  
Luke 21:12; John 15:18-27
- a) Matthew 10:34 – *“Do not think that I (Jesus Christ) came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword (i.e. spiritual division).”*
  - b) John 15:18-20 – *“If the world hates you (first the Apostles and thus the church), you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”*

### **Revelation 6:3-4 – The Red Horseman**

Zech 1:8; 6:2

- 1) With the second seal, a red horseman, representing war, goes forth, to *“take peace from the earth”* and *“that men would slay one another.”*
  - a) This happens in “this age”, including right now, and will continue until the end of the age.
  - b) The focus, again, is not just that war will continue in this age, but that spiritual warfare will be against the church because of Christ, and His Gospel going forward.
- 2) The horseman has a *“great sword” (megas machaira)*, and it is the same word, used by the Lord Jesus and His warning, *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword (machaira).”* – Matthew 10:34
- 3) The word for *“slay”*, or *“slaughter” (sphazō)*, here in Revelation 6, is only used by the Apostle John in the New Testament.
  - a) In 1John 3:12 to refer to Cain slaying his brother Abel. Gen 4:1ff
    - i) Cain is the first person born to Adam & Eve, which happened after the fall.
    - ii) Showing the effects of sin, that the first person born is a murderer.
  - b) One is used about the evil beast in Revelation 13:3.
  - c) All the other times it refers to:
    - i) Martyred Christians. Rev 6:9; 18:24
      - Including those saints given white robes after the 5<sup>th</sup> Seal is open.
      - *“The souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God”* - Rev 6:9b

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<sup>7</sup> My favorite commentary on Revelation is More Than Conquerors by William Hendriksen, who argues Revelation is divided into seven visions:

|                                | <u>Vision 1</u> | <u>Vision 2</u> | <u>Vision 3</u> | <u>Vision 4</u> | <u>Vision 5</u> | <u>Vision 6</u> | <u>Vision 7</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Present Church Age:            | 1:1-3:22        | 4:1-6:11        | 8:1-12          | 12:1-13:18      | 15:1-16:12      | 17:1-18:24      | 20:1-6          |
| Tribulation - End of this Age: | ---             | 6:12-7:8        | 8:13-11:14      | 14:1-13         | 16:12-16        | ---             | ---             |
| Perfect Final Age to Come:     | ---             | 7:9-17          | 11:15-19        | 14:14-20        | 16:17-21        | 19:1-21         | 20:7-22:21      |

ii) And in particular about Jesus Himself.

Rev 5:6,9,12; 13:8

- As we have been reading about the heavenly Christ who reigns right now.
- Revelation 5:6b – “*Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.*”
- Showing that it is by Christ’s death He conquers.
- And He is both meek and fearsome.

- 4) Because the Lamb has been slain and has been raised, ascended into heaven, and now reigns, there will be attacks on the saints. Both physically, leading to martyrdom, and spiritually.
  - a) Voice of the Martyrs<sup>8</sup> reports 13 Christians are killed each day because of their faith.
  - b) This is true especially in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.
- 5) Besides death, Christians also face economic hardship because of their faith.

### **Revelation 6:5-6 – The Black Horseman**

Zech 6:2,6

- 1) The Black Horseman comes forth holding a pair of scales, a balance. Ezek 4:10
- 2) A voice declares, “*A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine.*” - Rev 6:6b
- 3) This represents economic hardship the church will/does face.
  - a) A “*quart of wheat for a denarius*” means it costs a whole day's wage to pay for bread to feed one person. Matt 20:2
  - b) The much coarser, and inferior barley, is 1/3 the price, however, even with barley a man's whole day wage will only feed three in his family with nothing left over.
  - c) “*Do not damage the oil and the wine*” refers to the comforts of life which are now out of reach. Deut 7:13; Prov 21:17;  
SoS 4:10; Luke 10:34
- 4) Christians can face economic hardship.
  - a) Certainly, our brothers in places like North Korea, Somalia, Libya, etc. frequently face death and economic hardship because of their faith.<sup>9</sup>
  - b) Revelation 13:17 warns that in this age those who do not have “*the mark of the beast*” (spiritually dead inside), i.e. Christians will not be able to buy or sell.
- 5) Clearly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> (red – violent attack) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (black – economic hardship) horsemen go together.

### **Spiritual Warfare & Thanksgiving**

- 1) Hopefully, we are all thinking, “*I have no idea what it is like to know warfare or complete economic assault on myself, my family, and my community, like the early Christians who first received Revelation or the martyred and persecuted saints today.*”
  - a) Amen.
  - b) The Lord has been merciful to us in the United States and in the West.
  - c) This is solely by His grace, and not by our works, therefore let us be thankful.

<sup>8</sup> <https://vom.com.au/persecuted-christians/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.opendoorsus.org/en-US/stories/10-most-dangerous-places-Christians/>

- 2) There will always be strife between the earthly city of this fallen world and Christ's Kingdom.
- a) Christians will not know peace (i.e. lack of strife) in this world because of Christ. Matt 10:34-35; Luke 12:51-53; John 15:18-27
- b) 1Peter 5:8 – *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*
- 3) If we live out, and proclaim, the Christian faith, the world will not like us.
- a) Does the world want to hear, or even be reminded, that:
- There is only one God and He has spoken with clarity and that is only through Jesus Christ.
  - That God created everything, He is sovereign, and all that happens is by His will.
  - The 66 books of the Bible alone are the inerrant authoritative written word of God.
  - That all humanity are sinners and under God's wrath.
  - That heaven, and hell, are very much real places.
  - You are either for Christ or against Him, there is no neutrality.
  - That salvation is only through His Son Jesus Christ.
  - That you have to be under the authority of Christ's church.
  - The we are born either male or female and each gender has distinct roles.
  - That men are to lead, provide and protect, and women are to nurture, care and support.
  - The sexuality is only for the marriage covenant, which is only between one man and one woman, whose main purpose is to have children, who are a blessing.
  - Abortion is murder.
  - That every letter of LGBTQIA2S+ is just wicked perversion and hateful to God.
  - That our loyalty to the Lord Jesus is vastly more important than our loyalty to family, friends, country, political party, ideology, social organization, and even ourselves.
  - That we must love everyone, including our enemies, though we love by God's standards, as taught in His Law, not the twisted lies of this world.
  - That all sins can be forgiven in Christ.
- b) Such beliefs, especially when lived out and proclaimed, will lead to hatred in this world and throughout the age, even within the church.
- 4) Always remember Christ's Kingdom is not of this world. John 18:36
- a) Romans 14:17 – *“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking (i.e. obeying the OT civil & ceremonial laws), but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”*
- b) Which means we (the church) do not fight in the way the world fights. (i.e. war, violence, quests for power, politics, etc.) John 18:36  
2Cor 10:2-6
- c) But we fight by the Spirit. 1Tim 1:18-19  
Remaining faithful 2Tim 4:7-8  
Living by the Spirit Gal 5:22ff  
Which produces those greatest virtues: 1Cor 13:12-13  
faith, hope and love.
- d) Enduring hardship, speaking the truth in charity and making the good confession. Fearing God and not man. 2Cor 6:1-10  
1Tim 6:12; 2Tim 2:3-6
- 5) Always being mindful that Satan seeks to destroy the church. James 4:1-2
- 6) This spiritual battle we fight each day internally. Rom 7:21-8:2
- 1Peter 2:11 (KJV) – *“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”*



- 7) For those Christians of advanced faith, usually brought about through much worldly persecution, they rejoice in suffering. Matt 5:11-12; Acts 5:41; Phil 1:29; 1Pet 1:6,14-16
- a) Philippians 1:29 – *“For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,”*
  - b) This is truly a high level of faith.
  - c) Yet, what a wonderful place to be in to rejoice in all things! Phil 4:4
  - d) However, our Lord commands such rejoicing and also promises blessings, in this life and the next, for such a faith that endures.  
 Matthew 5:11-12 – *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*
- 8) The fundamental way to train oneself in thanksgiving is the Gospel.
- a) As the Heidelberg Catechism, Q#2, wonderfully describes the whole Christian life.
  - b) *Question:* What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?
  - c) *Answer:* Three things: First, how great my sin and misery are Rom 3:9-10; 1John 1:10  
 Second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43  
 Third, how I am to thank God Matt 5:16; Rom 6:13; Eph 5:8-10;  
 for such deliverance. 2Tim 2:15; 1Pet 2:9-10
- 9) How can we not be thankful? Is 9:6; Luke 24:36; John 14:27-31; 16:33; 20:19,21,26; Rom 14:17; 15:13; Gal 1:4; 5:22; Phil 4:7-9; Col 3:15
- a) Thankful for all the material blessings, including not being at war, the Lord has given us.
  - b) Thankful that we are not alone, we are in Christ’s church, have His Spirit, and have mystic sweet communion with those whose rest has been won.
  - c) Above all, that we have Christ, and in Him, we right now have perfect peace with God the Father.
    - i) As the OT prophecies about the birth of Christ – *“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”* – Isaiah 9:6-7
    - ii) The Prince of Peace told us: *“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”* – John 16:33
    - iii) And what book in the Bible most directly tells and shows us that Christ has overcome the world? Revelation!
    - iv) As the angels declare, *“We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.”* – Revelation 11:17
- 10) So, *“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.”* – Colossians 3:15
- 11) Happy Thanksgiving.