



PLANO CHURCH OF CHRIST

406 Lew Street Plano, IL 60545

Facebook Plano IL Church of Christ

SUNDAY

Bible Study 10:00 am

Worship - 10:50 am

Worship - 4:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Evangelist & Editor:

Bryan Bickford

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"As We Stand & Sing"

How many times have you heard that said, or even said it yourself as a preacher or teacher of God's Word? What does it really mean? Is it something we just say to end a lesson, because that is what were are about to do? I fear that many times maybe not even realizing it we are going through the motions here. But the fact is we are giving all who have the need to make things in their life right with God an opportunity to do so, an opportunity for forgiveness of sins, an opportunity for the prayers of our beloved brethren. Nothing here should be taken for granted. Let's look at Scripture to get a better understanding and appreciation to be able to stand and sing.

Ps 76:7 You, even You, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry?

Nahum 1:6-7 Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire And the rocks are broken up by Him. 7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

Mal 3:1-2 "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. 2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

Rev 6:16-17 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the

presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Luke 5:8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

In our sin, and we all have sinned (Rom 3:23) at one point in our life; we are unable to stand before God and our Savior! We cannot stand in our sin before the mighty Judge on the Day of Judgment!

Ps 51:1-4 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

It is only in Christ that our sins will be cleansed by His blood (1 Jn 1:7), washed in the blood of the Lamb (Rev 7:14). Because of this forgiveness of sins we will be able to stand, and that being true, we will be singing, we will be standing and singing His praises! We have the hope of eternal life because of His love and grace. But we must be obedient to His word and continue to be faithful. But if or when we sin, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn 1:8-9). Once again forgiven because of His love and grace. It is now time to not only stand, but to sing to our great God!

Ps 5:11-12 But let all who take refuge in You be

glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You. 12 For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield.

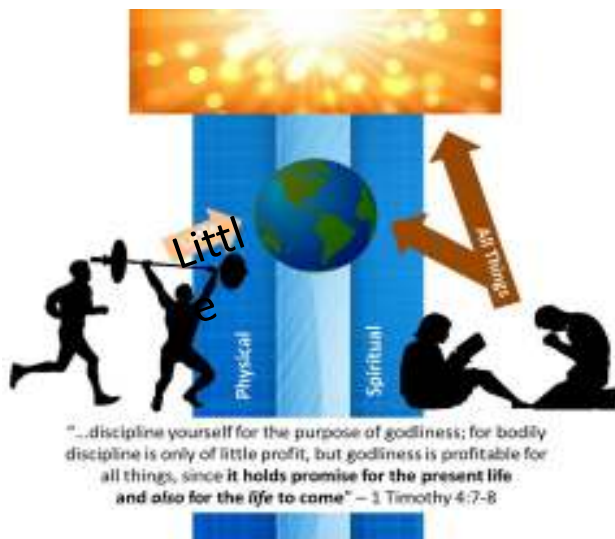
Ps 51:14-17 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise. 16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Ps 30:4-5 Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And give thanks to His holy name. 5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.

Rev 15:3-4 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

A song of victory, a song of justice! **Let us always appreciate the opportunity in this life to stand and sing**, so that we may spend an eternity singing the song of victory and deliverance!

Bryan Bickford



David Diestelkamp, Seeds of Truth

Correcting Our Arithmetic

Would you think I was joking if I said that you can put a clock back, and that if the clock is wrong it is often a very sensible thing to do? We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man. We have all seen this when doing arithmetic. When I have started a sum the wrong way, the sooner There is nothing progressive about being pig headed and refusing to admit a mistake. And I think if you look at the present state of the world, it is pretty plain that humanity has been making some big mistake. We are on the wrong road. And if that is so, we must go back. Going back is the quickest way on.

C.S. Lewis Mere Christianity

1 Tim 4:16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

Freedom: Worth the Risk

Of course God knew what would happen if they used their freedom the wrong way: apparently He thought it worth the risk. Perhaps we feel inclined to disagree with Him. But there is a difficulty about disagreeing with God. He is the source from which all your reasoning power comes: you could not be right and He wrong any more than a stream can rise higher than its own source. When you are arguing against Him you are arguing against the very power that makes you able to argue at all: it is like cutting off the branch you are sitting on. If God thinks this state of war in the universe a price worth paying for free will—that is, for making a live world in which creatures can do real good or harm and something of real importance can happen, instead of a toy world which only moves when He pulls the strings—then we may take it, it is worth paying.

C.S. Lewis Mere Christianity

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- We are never so empty as when we are full of self.
 - Emotion is no substitute for devotion.