

KEEPING A TIGHT GRIP

2 SAMUEL 23:9, 10

Text:

Introduction:

Eleazar was one of David's mighty men - in fact, one of the top three. The Philistines had attacked the Israelite army, and it had retreated. Eleazar, David and two more stood their ground and fought - four men against a whole army. They won because God fought on their side.

"Fall back!" cried the Israelite army. The Philistines began falling back. The dust was heavy and thick. When it settled, Eleazar was standing in the midst of dead bodies.

I've visualized that many times: men all around Eleazar - the Philistines all dead. He wants to lay down his sword, but his hand is embedded into the hilt of it. He had fought so hard, gripped his sword so tightly; now, when he tries to lay it down he can't

That is what I call standing for God!

We need more Eleazars - men and women willing to fight against the foes of God; men who will fight regardless of the odds.

Eleazar was such a man as that.

Sin is rampant - anything goes! What was immoral is now moral. Oh, for some Eleazars who will keep a tight grip on their gospel weapons!

1. KEEP A TIGHT GRIP ON GOD'S WORD

A. Pure

(Psa 12:6 KJV) "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

B. Powerful

(Heb 4:12 KJV) "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

C. Preserved

(Mat 24:35 KJV) "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

1. The Bible doesn't need rewritten; it just needs to be reread.
2. Men sit around examining the Bible in the light of history, when they ought to examine history in the light of the Bible.
3. We sit around examining the jawbone of the ass when we ought to be killing the Philistines.
4. We try to determine who is elected to be saved and who is predestined to be damned when the whole world needs these simple truths put to their hearts: Man is a sinner, Christ is the Saviour of sinners; and if sinners don't get saved, they will be damned in Hell for eternity!
5. We don't have to defend the Word of God.

Illustration:

There is a lion in a cage. You are messing with him. You have a stick poking him. I don't have to say to you, "Leave that lion alone!" All I have to do is open the cage, and you'll leave him alone.

That is what we have to do with the Word of God. We open the cage and let out the Lion of Judah. The Bible stands on its own.

We don't have to defend the Word of God; just let it out. Keep a tight grip on God's Book.

Illustration:

Blind girl who read her Bible in Braille, whose fingers became callused

Keep a tight grip on God's Word.

2. KEEP A TIGHT GRIP ON THE GOSPEL

A. We need to stay close to the cross and preach the Simple Gospel every service.

B. Some think of that as being shallow, but you can't get any deeper than the Gospel.

1. The Gospel shows the way to the Saviour.

2. The Gospel satisfies the searcher.

3. The Gospel secures the saved.

C. Paul's message was the gospel.

(1 Cor 2:2 KJV) "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

Keep a tight grip on the Gospel

3. KEEP A TIGHT GRIP ON YOUR GOAL.

A. What are your goals?

1. Is God anywhere in the picture?

B. We need to have a vision!

(Prov 29:18 KJV) "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

C. Christ spoke about vision.

(John 4:35 KJV) "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

D. Having a vision involves some things

1. Taking your eyes off of yourself.

2. Seeing the length of eternity.

3. Seeing the lost suffering in Hell.
4. Seeing those that you have the opportunity to reach with the gospel stand before God and receiving their eternal punishment.
5. Seeing the Saviour being wrongly crucified for your sins, and the sins of the whole world.
6. Seeing all of that, now seeing yourself as the only person standing in the gap, to reach a lost and dying world with the Gospel.

Keep a tight grip on your goal.

Close:

One day we must stand before the throne. Then we can lay the sword down and watch all those who have fought hard and heavy in the battle. Paul said,

(2 Tim 4:8 KJV) "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

When the battle is over, God will say, "Lay your sword down. You now will have a crown. Step up here."

Eleazar, one of the mighty men, fought so hard that his hand clave to the sword. I want to be that kind of Christian, that kind of preacher. I want to establish my ground and say, "I'm on the winning side, the side of the Lord, and the side of what's right - on God's side. By the grace of God, I'll not release hold of my gospel weapons."

I want to keep a tight grip on God's Word. The liberals try to take out the book of Genesis. Others try to take out the virgin birth. Others try to take out the miracles, saying, ""that's just sleight of hand!" Hold on to it and vow, "You cannot take it away from me! To part with any of it is to part with all truth!"

Keep a tight grip on God's Word! Keep a tight grip on the Gospel! Keep a tight grip on your Goal!

I don't look back.
God knows the foolish efforts,
the wasted hours, the sinning,
the regrets.

I leave them all to Him who blots
the record and mercifully forgives
and then forgets.

I don't look forward.
God sees all the future;
The road that's short or long will
lead me Home.

And He will face its every trial
and bear for me the burdens
that may come.

I look up into the face of Jesus;
For there my heart can rest,
And my fears are stilled.
And there's love, joy, light for
darkness, with perfect peace
and every hope fulfilled.

Keep A Tight Grip.