

ON THE VANGUARD

MATTHEW 11:12

Issue 1 - March 2017



In 1986, as an eleven-year-old boy, I took a walk that would change my life forever. Down the dirt path across from the golf course I laid the junk that people tossed aside. In the past I had been able to find what I considered to be ‘treasures’, like a baseball or old beat up Tonka truck. On this occasion, however, I found my apple. Now please don’t be confused, I am not talking about a

physical, edible apple. No, in my case I found the apple that would hook me for years to come. I found a pile of Hustler magazines.

As cunning as the devil is, it is obvious what he desires. He desires our destruction. Jesus told us this by exposing the enemy’s plan in John 10:10. *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...”* Yet while the end result is known, the way in which he carries out his mission is different for each person. Whereas for me the apple used was pornography, for another person it may be money, pride, or idleness.

Look at some of the apples he managed to use throughout the Bible. In Genesis 3:4-5, we find the enemy in his serpent form tickling the ear of Eve. *“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman, ‘For God knows that when you eat of [the fruit] your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”* In this case he used the apple of vanity, and with it came the entrance of sin and physical death. It is in Judges 16:4, we find the enemy using lust as an apple. Here, as ever so constantly, Delilah was used to obtain from Samson the secret of his strength. In the end, Samson would break and be taken as a slave of the Philistines. And in Acts 5:1-11, the enemy uses greed as the apple. In this account we find the full promised amount not given, and both Ananias and Sapphira finding physical death as a result.

On and on, example after example, the Bible is full of accounts where the apple caused the doom. I wonder if that is where the Brothers Grimm took the idea of the apple in their classic tale of *Snow White*. All it took was one bite from the poisoned apple and the princess would be done for. How fitting then, that the devil works to do the same with us. He presents the apple to us, dangling before us in all its hidden yet wicked glory, and encourages us to take just one bite.

So what is your apple? What is it that the enemy has as his go to in order to bring your destruction? I have learned, albeit the hard way, what my apple is. I have come to realize that as long as I live for Christ the enemy will continue to come after me with his apples in hopes that I will take a bite. His apple may promise to be fun, to meet our needs, and to satisfy our souls, but in the end it will only lead to a spiritual and perhaps physical death. So then, let’s deny his apple and join together ON THE VANGUARD.

LOOKING FOR A MISSIONS EXPERIENCE?

One of the final commands that Christ gave His disciples in Matthew 28:19 was a simple two-letter word. GO.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

My wife, son, and I will be travelling to Nicaragua this summer, and we have room for you to join us.

Prayerfully consider if God is commissioning you to come with us, May 27 thru June 3, 2017, as we GO!

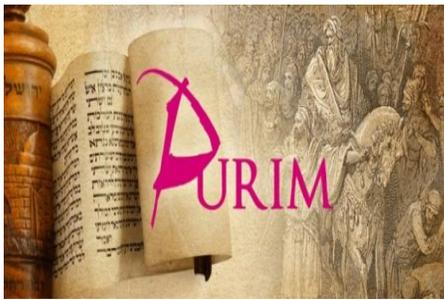


ON THE VANGUARD

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According to the Hebrew calendar, the Jewish celebration of Purim is just days away. This year the festivities will begin at sundown, March 9, and then resume at sundown March 11. Normally it is not split, but with the holiday taking place on a normal Sabbath weekend, an exception is made.

But what is Purim all about, and why should we celebrate it still today? Both are very good questions.

The holiday itself is centered on the salvation that Queen Esther brought to her people. Haman conceived a plan to exterminate the Jewish people. However, when the

plot was understood by Esther's uncle, Mordechai, Queen Esther was prompted into action. Risking her life and going before the King, she requested an audience with both Haman and himself. The three shared dinner, and then she asked again for another evening with the two. It was at this second dinner that she shared her true identity as a Jewish girl, and pleaded for the life of her people and herself. The extermination Haman sought for the Jewish people came back around and proved his defeat in the end.

With this brief storyline, the question remains as to why it should be celebrated still. To answer this I ask you – did you know the Book of Esther does not mention God anywhere in it? It's true. But what this book does show us is God's working behind the scenes for our benefit. How many times have you seen God working things out for your benefit? My guess is quite a few. But how many times have you NOT seen Him at work, and yet His will is still done? Probably more than you know. I celebrate Purim not only because of my Jewish roots, but because I want to remember all the times God has saved me, whether from the known enemy's hand, or the one I have not seen.

WHAT IS THE VANGUARD...

1 : the troops moving at the head of an army

2 : the forefront of an action or movement

NEED PRAYER?

Got a prayer request that you want someone to back you up on? Drop me a note and I will lift you up.

“Adonai will do battle for you. Just calm yourselves down!”
Exodus 14:14

Fear can cause us to say and do some pretty stupid things. When the Hebrews saw the army of Pharaoh coming after them, they began to fear. In fear the Hebrews also blamed Moses for their circumstance. They questioned why he brought them out, why they couldn't have just remained slaves, and why they should die here as opposed to in Egypt. What they did not know is what we can also fail to see. Freedom was knocking on their door and Adonai was fighting for them. Adonai was their man of war, their ISYH MILCHAMAH (Ex 15:3), and He was about to prove Himself. So then, with the word of the LORD, Moses worked to

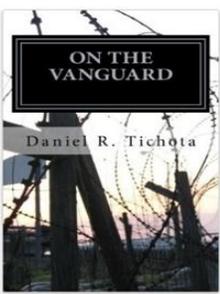


calm the people's fears by announcing that this would be the last day the Egyptians would ever be seen. Adonai was about to roll up His sleeves and do battle on their behalf. So don't lose heart. Calm yourself down, for He is doing battle for you.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK?

ON THE VANGUARD

BY DANIEL TICHOTA



WHAT IS IT ABOUT:

I take my love for history, mix in key points from people in the Bible, and add in a touch of my personal life lessons. The entire book is built on the word S.T.A.N.D. = Solid, Tenacious, And Never Defeated. What did it take for men and women of both history and of the Bible to become people of strength, people of tenacity, and people who refused to be defeated? More so, what will it take for us to also be these people? The term *Vanguard* means those who fought on the frontlines in war. We are all called to stand on the Vanguard of life, but how can we if we have either nothing to stand for, or continue to hold the wrong stance? This book is meant to challenge the reader in the proper posture of their standing.

COMEDY

CORNER

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What Bible character had no parents?

Joshua, son of Nun

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

Ruthless

Handwritten Forward

Proper Penmanship is becoming a lost art. We found a way to keep it around.