

Vessel's Of Honor
Stand Alone
2 Tim 4.5-8

[Most of us know what it feels like to be the odd man out, so to speak; to be the one on the outside of the group looking in. We don't like not fitting in. We want to be a part of the group. Yet there are times when being a part of the group means that we have to stand where the group stands, or what the group represents will be associated with us if we stand with the group. Today, in our text, that group might be society, or the primary movers in our society.]

[The apostle Paul was once one of those major players in Jewish society. Paul was once a Pharisee and he had authority and influence. He was in the "in" group. Until that day when he met the Lord Jesus Christ and he discovered that to be in societies "in" group meant being separated from God and his eternal kingdom. At that moment Paul had to make a decision, stand with society and be a man of stature and position in this corrupt world or stand with God and lose this world's temporal authority but be right with God in eternity to come. Paul chose wisely, but it cost him greatly from this world perspective. As a result Paul is seen having to Stand Alone.]

[So how about you? Are you willing to Stand Alone for our Lord Jesus Christ if He asks you to? Do you think that your faith will ever stand in contrast to our culture and our society? I tell you your faith is already at odds with our American culture. There are many things that our culture is calling normal and good that stand in stark opposition to the Word of God, and our Lord calls us to Stand Up, Stand Up, For Jesus! But what will you do? What are you doing?]

[Paul was standing alone because he was standing on the simple gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was preaching that there is only one way to get to heaven and that is through the resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All that Paul would have had to do to be free and back in the world is say, "You're okay if you believe some other way or religion." But then multitudes would have died believing a lie.

Paul preached Jesus Christ with no exceptions, as the Word of God declares, and for that he stood alone.]

[Will you stand alone for our Lord Jesus Christ, or will you step back into obscurity and let multitudes die in their delusions?]

What does it take to stand alone?

A. The Perseverance (vs 16) [- *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.* – Notice first of all if you will stand for Jesus it requires,]

1. [A Singular Witness (vs 16; Heb 10.25) - **At my first answer no man stood with me,** . . . – When Paul was arrested and taken before the Roman governors and princes no one came to stand with him as he declared the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Paul took those stands all alone.** Even when Paul finally made it to Rome and stood up for the gospel of our Lord before the Roman emperor Paul stood all alone.]

[To take a Singular Stand is a most difficult thing to do. Fellowship is extremely important for any person. Our Christian fellowship, the fellowship we can only receive from the Church is extremely important for us as Christians. For this reason the Word of God says,]

[**Hebrews 10:25** **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,** as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.]

Eph 4.11

[Why do we need our Church?]

[**Ephesians 4:11-12** ¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;* ¹² *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:]*

[The Church]

- [Grows Us or Matures Us (Eph 4.12) - *For the perfecting of the saints, . . .*]

- [Works Us in Ministry (Eph 4.12) - *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, . . .*]

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- A. The Perseverance
1. A Singular Witness

- [Builds Us Up in the Body of Christ (Eph 4.12) - *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*]

- [Nourishes and Strengthens Us (Eph 4.16)]

[Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.]

[Folks, don't make the fatal mistake of thinking that you just don't need the Church in your Christian life.]

[Yet, there may come a day and time where you will be required to stand all alone, as the Apostle Paul did. Will you be able to persevere and stand all alone, even if your life is at stake? Will you be a witness for our Lord Jesus Christ even if it means that you must Stand Alone and Stand Alone in Peril?]

[Paul Stood Alone! He stood for the Lord Jesus Christ even when all that stood around him convicting him said he was wrong.]

[By the way, our Lord Jesus Christ stood alone.]

2. [A Solitary Stand (vs 16; Job 2.9-10) - *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.* – Of all things in life it is the hardest to take what seems like a Solitary Stand. We find examples of godly people in the Word of God who took solitary stands.]

Job 2.9

- [Job took a Solitary Stand – after job had lost all of his worldly possession in a day (Job 1) , and then on the next day was afflicted with

boils from head to toe and sat down in ashes and scrapped himself with a broken piece of pottery (Job 2), we read,]

*[Job 2:9-10 **Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.** ¹⁰ But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.]*

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- A. The Perseverance
1. A Singular Witness
 2. A Solitary Stand

[Job's own wife would not stand with him, imagine what that must have been like. Job stood alone, without the support of family.]

[Then Job's friends showed up and Job stood not only alone but accused by his friends. That must have been hard, very hard.]

- **[Daniel took a Solitary Stand (Dan 6)** – When the governors of the Persian empire convinced that king to sign a declaration that anyone who prayed to any God but the king should be cast into a den of hungry lions. The Word of God records,]

*[Daniel 6:10 **Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed,** he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.]*

[Why did Daniel fling open his windows when he prayed? Was it pride? No, it was a testimony, a declaration. Daniel was proclaiming that there was only one God and the king was not Him.]

[Daniel had the courage to Stand Alone for the glory of God.]

- **[Elijah took a Solitary Stand (1 Kings 18)** – Elijah was one prophet of God against **850 prophets of Baal and of the groves.** Elijah loudly declared,]

*[1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? **if the LORD be God, follow him:** but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.*

[1 Kings 18:36-39 ³⁶ *And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.* ³⁷ *Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.* ³⁸ *Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.* ³⁹ *And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.]*

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A. The Perseverance

1. A Singular Witness
2. A Solitary Stand

[These godly men all stood alone for our God. The question before us today is will you be willing and able to stand all alone for our Lord Jesus Christ when that day and trail comes your way?]

[Our Lord said,]

[Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.]

[The Word of God declares,]

[2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.]

[Will you Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus even if you must Stand Alone?]

B. The Passion (vs 17; 1 John 4.4; Heb 13.5; Isa 41.10; Psalm 37.28) [– The Apostle Paul had no man that stood with Him, but he knew that he was not all alone. From this worlds perspective Paul stood all alone, but from our Lord’s kingdom perspective **Paul was never alone.]**

[Notice in our text,]

1. [A Spiritual Presence (vs 17; 1 John 4.4) – *Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, . . .* – Christian, just like Paul you are never alone if you are in Christ Jesus.]

Isa 41.10

[1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: **because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**]

[Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: **for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**]

[Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; **for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.**]

[Psalm 37:28 For the LORD loveth judgment, **and forsaketh not his saints;** they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.]

2. [A Spiritual Provision (vs 17; 1 Pet 5.8-9; Psalm 121) – Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, **and strengthened me; . . . and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.**]

Psalm 121

[Who is this lion?]

[1 Peter 5:8-9 ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; **because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,** walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.]

[What are God's Promises when we need deliverance?]

[Psalm 121:1-8 ¹ I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. ² My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. ³ **He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.** ⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵ The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. ⁶ The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ **The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.** ⁸ The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.]

[Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to pray?]

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A. The Perseverance

1. A Singular Witness

2. A Solitary Stand

B. The Passion

1. A Spiritual Presence

[**Matthew 6:9-13** ⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.]

[**Our Heavenly Father delights to deliver His people!**]

3. [A **Spiritual Proclamation** – *Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; **that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear:** and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*]

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A. The Perseverance

1. A Singular Witness
2. A Solitary Stand

B. The Passion

1. A Spiritual Presence
2. A Spiritual Provision

[When you are required to stand alone, and I mean **"When!"** Then know with confidence that your Heavenly Father has a purpose for you at that time and be courageous and faithful. Having done all, **Stand!**]

[Let our Lord and our God be magnified and greatly glorified through your stand and testimony.]

[No Matter where the Apostle Paul was or who he faced he proclaimed the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, **especially when he stood all alone.** Will you?]

- C. The Promise (vs 18)** [- *And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*]

[**Notice the promises we must cleave to when we stand all alone!**]

1. [The **Divine Deliverance** - *And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, . . . - Our God will ultimately deliver you.*]

[Now understand that Paul died a martyrs death at the hands of this ruthless emperor. Paul ended up losing his head. But this emperor could do nothing

to hinder Paul's ultimate deliverance. He could take Paul's life but he could never prevent Paul from entering into the eternal Kingdom of God.]

[We don't see this kind of severe persecution in America today, but we could one day in the future. We have our Christian brothers and sisters all around that world who are being killed because they believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and God. Those people who are killing them would love nothing less that to kill us too.]

[Are you willing to surrender your mortal life for the clear and proclaimed testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ? Paul did just that.]

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A. The Perseverance

1. A Singular Witness
2. A Solitary Stand

B. The Passion

1. A Spiritual Presence
2. A Spiritual Provision
3. A Spiritual Proclamation

C. The Promise

1. The Divine Deliverance
2. The Divine Destiny

2. [**The Divine Destiny** - *And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, **and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom:** to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen]*

[Do you fully understand that because you are a born again Christian, no matter how you die in this corrupt world you are eternally secure in our Lord's Kingdom?]

[This simple fact and your faith in it will empower you to stand for our Lord Jesus Christ even unto the end of your mortal life.]