

## *Theme for 2018*

# **WE ARE THE ARMY OF GOD & WE ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS!**

*“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)*



## ***This Week’s Thought – July, 15 2018***

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*“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:1-3 (NKJV)*

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I don’t know if this sounds anything like you, but I catch myself from time to time, enjoying the ease of going into my phone, opening up an app, and just like that ordering stuff: books, gadgets, more books, more gadgets...just stuff. The question I ask myself (sometimes before, but always after) is ‘Do I really need more stuff to clutter up and complicate my life?’ Thinking about this from a spiritual perspective, our cluttered life can lose its edge of effectiveness for Christ. Truth be told, we might have to reset our mind and affections above, so that we send ahead treasures that outlast trivial trinkets left behind.

Paul understood the clutter of a culture that constantly demands attention. Once a driven crusader against Christ, Paul encountered Christ personally and became a crusader for Christ. Because of his radical change of heart, Paul sacrificed his resume of accomplishments on the dung heap of earthly desires in exchange for "*knowing Christ in the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering.*" (Philippians 3:10) Paul found great delight in de-cluttering his life for his Lord!

*"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ." (Philippians 3:8)*

July 15, 2018

Has your life become cluttered with trivial matters and less meaningful stuff? What is your plan to regularly de-clutter your calendar and checkbook to more reflect the heart of Christ? Pray about a practical process to place boundaries around your tendency to spend too much on earthly possessions. Replace this temptation with a routine to route your resources toward the true riches of treasure in heaven. A regular trip to a thrift store that supports community ministry and outreach, might help and be is a good habit to cultivate. You can drop off your over accumulation of stuff, and at the same time support kingdom initiatives. De-clutter and become a more focused disciple of Christ.

Most of all, you will find the greatest delight by elevating your affections upward toward the lover of your soul, Jesus Christ. A life surrendered to Jesus does not allow other competitors to gain unhealthy influence over the physical, spiritual and emotional. The summer months subtly suck life from your soul if you are not intentional with your time of Spirit-led refreshment. Invite God's creation to create fresh faith in your heart and allow the experience of another culture to grow your grace and understanding toward those different from yourself. Your affections immersed in the love of Christ provide clarity by de-cluttering a conflicted mind. So be free!

*"That means you can sell your possessions and give generously to the poor. You can have a different kind of savings plan: one that never depreciates, one that never defaults, one that can't be plundered by crooks or destroyed by natural calamities. Your treasure will be stored in the heavens, and since your treasure is there, your heart will be lodged there as well. I'm not just talking theory. There is urgency in all this. If you're apathetic and complacent, then you'll miss the moment of opportunity." Luke 12:33-35 (The Voice)*

**Application:** Ask yourself this week, ‘What can I give away or sell that frees me to be a better giver and servant of Jesus?’

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Lord, I trust in You today. I thank You that You keep turning the pages of my life. Every day You give me a new beginning filled with new mercies and new possibilities. Help me to ride each new wave of temptation, and to overcome the things that can drag my life down. As I look to You, I declare Your promise of freedom over my life, that comes from my life in, and my obedience to Christ. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

~Yours in Christ, Pastor King