

August 7, 2022

FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST



Elders

Steve Clark
Jake VanDyke
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham

Deacons

Greg Allen
Justin Beckman
Kevin Clemons
Jeffrey Cox
Mike Davidson
Kyle Dickson
Gregg Elrod
Nate Fulmer
AJ Gooch
Jamey Medley
Ronnie Putnam
Dave Schmidt
Mark Vanhorn
Don Williams

Minister

Austin Johnson

Youth Minister

John Birdwell

Secretary

Sonya Cox

Have This Mind, the Mind of Christ

“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind...” (1 Peter 4:1)

The Spirit of God inspired Peter to write and use the phrase, *“arm yourselves,”* which is used in the vast majority of translations, or *“equip yourselves,”* which is used once as I have found. These translations come from a Greek word which means, *“to make ready, to equip.”* I cannot help but think of the movie, *“The Patriot”* when in Battle against the Red Coats, the American militia officer yelled out an order to his troops who had lined up against the horde of British troops, saying, *“Make ready!”* The American troops repeated the order to their commanding officer, *“make ready,”* as they brought their rifles to active fighting position. What was the point? The battle was directly in front of them, and it was coming quickly. Peter is calling the Christians to *“make ready,”* just not with a rifle for military combat. Peter is calling Christians to be ready to battle the adversary with the mind of Christ.

What is the mind of Christ? Paul echoed this phrase in *Philippians 2:5* as he said, *“Have this mind among you which is also yours in Christ Jesus...”* What was the mind of Christ in that text? Humble service in obedience to the Father (*Philippians 2:7–8*). Jesus was willing to count others as more important than himself (*Philippians 2:3–4*). This was the basis of the mind of Christ. But it doesn't stop there.

As you live your life for Christ there will be suffering and hardships. Our suffering and hardships are not always brought on by our own mistakes or sin, however. Sometimes it is because we are trying to live like Jesus that we face fiery trials and tribulations. As Peter said, *“Do not be surprised when you face fiery trials of various kinds...”* in *1 Peter 4:12*. Trials are coming for those who attempt to live like Jesus. Jesus faced trials first! We are to keep his mindset which is to trust that God sees our attempts to be like Jesus and know that God will reward those who commit their lives to doing good, because He is faithful (*1 Peter 4:19*).

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” (Isaiah 26:3)

- Austin Johnson

2502 FLORENCE BOULEVARD

www.florenceblvd.org

PHONE (256) 766-3617

email: office@florenceblvd.org

FAX (256) 766-3546

Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am

Wednesday: 6:30 pm

