



April 30-May 6, 2017

Text: *Acts 12:1-19*
**ACTS-ION: The Dynamic Life
of Christ's Church - Then and Now**

SUMMARY OF "SERMON": Against the backdrop of spiritual warfare, Satan working against God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, a miracle occurs. After one apostle, James, is martyred another apostle, Peter, is imprisoned with the same sentence hanging over his head. But God miraculously delivers Peter as the church earnestly prays. In the process we learn of God's providence and how to use the weapons of spiritual warfare God has given for Christ's followers to advance the gospel.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week reveal further insights into the dynamics of spiritual warfare.]

Monday, May 1 – **II Corinthians 10:1-6** [Some in the Corinthian church have been misled by false teachers who have denied that Paul is God's apostle. In this battle for their minds to be renewed Paul shares how Christians are given spiritual tools to do God's work.]

Tuesday, May 2 – **Psalm 33** [This psalm is a call to praise our mighty God and trust in Him no matter what. After all, His providence over the affairs of the nation, vv.10-11, assure us of the ultimate victory we have in Christ.]

Wednesday, May 3 – **Ephesians 6:10-20** [This is Paul's classic passage on spiritual warfare, a very helpful reminder that our battle is not against flesh and blood but spiritual forces of evil influencing people and human institutions. It also gives a helpful list of spiritual weapons.]

Thursday, May 4 – **I Kings 19:1-18** [Through Elijah, God triumphs over the forces of Baal on Mt. Carmel. After this, Satan strikes back at Elijah through the wicked queen Jezebel and her threats. Elijah mistakenly thinks he alone is faithful to God (Satan uses deception and discouragement) but God reveals the truth in v.18.]

Friday, May 5 – **Acts 12:19b-25** [The judgment of God comes upon Herod reminding us that, although God is patient, He also sets limits. Those who do not turn from their sin will face God at the last Judgment.]

Saturday, May 6 – **Revelation 2:18-29** [This situation at the church of Thyatira is a sober reminder that spiritual warfare is a reality to be faced by every congregation. Thankfully, we are given weapons of spiritual warfare to stand firm in the grace and truth of Christ.]



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SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYER FOR THE “LORD’S WATCH”

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

The “**Lord’s Watch**” is a growing commitment of South King County churches to pray together for revival, reconciliation, reformation, and reaching the lost. Participating churches choose a particular day each month to pray. Following is a loose outline to provide cohesiveness for each of us in praying the Lord’s Watch.

I. Rejoice/Adoration

[Use an appropriate scripture: e.g. Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23]

II. Repentance/Confession

[Psalm 139:23-24, Isaiah 59:1-2]

III. Revival in the Church

[e.g. Psalm 85:6-9]

FIPC, Tukwila area churches, South King County, Seattle region

IV. Reconciliation

[e.g. II Corinthians 5:16-21]

Pray for unity between churches, and between Christians at work, in neighborhoods, schools, families, etc.

V. Reformation in Society

Pray for the infusion of God’s righteousness and justice to address the issues of crime, drugs, immorality, poverty, materialism, loss of sanctity of life, etc.

VI. Reaching the Lost

Pray for an awakening among those without Christ, including all ages, and all ethnic groups. Pray for a desire to seek Him who is “the way, the truth, and the life.” [John 14:6]

VII. Reflect

[Psalm 111:2] Think of the mighty works of God and of His promises to you, our congregation, the churches of South King County, and to our society. Let’s all freshly yield ourselves to seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness.

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