

# HOLDING FAST

## Introduction

- 1) **2 Samuel 23:9-10** – found within the list of David’s mighty men is **Eleazar**, who fought the Philistines until his hand “clave unto the sword” (KJV) “stuck to the sword (NKJV)
  - a) “Was so cramped as to be stiffened to the sword” (Keil and Delitzsch)
  - b) “Sort of a cramp seized it and resisted the attempt to open it to release the weapon” (Zerr)
  - c) “...his muscles tightened so that he could not readily release his grip on the handle” (Whitten)
- 2) Living in these very uncertain times, we need to be “holding fast” to those things that are true and steadfast – be careful to seek the right way (Prov. 16:25; 3:5-6)
  - a) Let us **hold fast** like a ship firmly anchored and a house set securely upon a foundation
- 3) Let us hold fast to...

## I) **The Word of God**

- A) **“Hold fast the pattern of sound words”** (2 Tim. 1:13)
  - 1) “Sound words” is the revealed word of God (1 Tim. 6:3; Titus 2:1; Eph. 3:3-5)
- B) It is our “sword of the Spirit” to use in our battle against Satan (Eph. 6:17)
  - 1) Provides a “thus saith the Lord/it is written” by the revelation of the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:13)
  - 2) Tempted to compromise or give up? Do not let go of the sword! (2 Tim. 4:2-4)
- C) Holding fast to the word of God is the key to...
  - 1) Shining as moral people in an immoral world (Phil. 2:14-16)
  - 2) Recognizing divisive errors that would deceive us (Rom. 16:17)
  - 3) Gaining our eternal salvation (Jas. 1:21)

## II) **What Is Good**

- A) **“Hold fast what is good”** (1 Thess. 5:21)
  - 1) Opposite of “every form of evil” (v. 22)
- B) God is good and *the* standard of all that is good (Psa. 119:68)
  - 1) Worldly minds are confused as to absolute standards of good and evil (Isa. 5:20)
  - 2) God’s word is the only source by which to discern good and evil (Heb. 5:14)
- C) **Good works:** we are created for (Eph. 2:10), thoroughly furnished unto every (2 Tim. 3:17), should maintain (Titus 3:8), and not grow weary in (Gal. 6:9)
- D) Let us “cling to what is good” (Rom. 12:9), especially when being pulled toward evil

## III) **Our Confession**

- A) **“Let us hold fast our confession”** (Heb. 4:14)
  - 1) Our confession of faith in Jesus as our Christ, Lord, and Savior (1 Tim. 6:12)
  - 2) Must never deny our confession of faith in Christ (Matt. 10:32-33; Rev. 2:13)

## IV) **Our Confidence and Hope**

- A) **“...if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope”** (Heb. 3:6, 14)
  - 1) Could lose our confidence if not careful – “IF we hold fast...”
  - 2) Confidence = assurance that is based in faith (11:1)
  - 3) Some “cast away” their confidence (10:35) – temptation, persecution, depression
- B) Hold fast the “confession of our hope” without wavering (Heb. 10:23)
  - 1) Lay hold of the hope of eternal life with *strong* consolation (Heb. 6:18; 1 Tim. 6:12)
  - 2) Always be ready to give a reason for “the hope that is in you” (1 Pet. 3:15)

## Conclusion

**“Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown”** (Rev. 3:11). Grasp and hold fast the faith and hope we have in Jesus! This will protect and sustain us through these troubled times.