Who Is On The Lord’s Side

Intro: Moses went up into Mount Sinai to receive God’s law. After forty days in the mount, the people come to Aaron and said, “Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.” Aaron makes them a golden calf. God instructs Moses to return to the people. When he comes he brake the stones of the ten commandments, ground the golden calf to powder and made the people drink it. Then Moses asks this all important question which we will use as the basis for our study. Exo. 32:26 “26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD’S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.”

I. HONORS AND BENEFITS OF BEING ON THE LORD’S SIDE

A. Lord is not such a taskmaster as Satan is.
   1. Rom. 6:16 “16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”
   2. Satan is a harsh taskmaster.
      a. Pro. 13:15 “15 Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.”
      b. Jer. 2:19 “19 Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.”
      c. John 8:34 “34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”
      d. Rom. 6:20-21 “20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. 21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.”
      e. Sin will control us if we do not control it; 2 Pet. 2:14 “14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:
   3. The Lord is not.
      a. Mat. 11:28-30 “28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
      b. 1 John 5:3 “3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”
      c. He gives comfort and peace.
         (1) 2 Cor. 1:4-5 “4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.”
         (2) John 14:27 “27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

B. Lord’s side is strongest.
   1. Job 42:2 “2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”
   2. The greater power is seen in God; 1 John 4:4 “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.”
   3. Jesus statement; Mat. 28:18 “18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
4. We know God is most powerful because of creation;
   a. Gen. 1:1 “1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
   b. Jer. 32:17 “17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.”

C. It is the useful side.
1. Those who are on the Lord’s side will be doing good works.
   a. Eph. 2:10 “10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
   b. Tit. 2:14 “14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”
   c. Schools, hospitals, nursing homes, etc. have been planted by those who adhere to the Bible.
   d. Those who are on the Lord’s side have the spirit of kindness, gentleness, etc., that produces useful things.
2. They will be a leavening influence to the world.
   a. Mat. 5:13-16 “13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
   b. Pro. 14:34 “34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”
   c. 10 righteous souls would have saved Sodom, Gomorrah and the cities of the plains.
   d. Because of Paul’s righteousness all those on the ship with him (276 souls) were saved; Acts 27:24 “24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.”

D. It is the right side.
1. We all like to be on the right side of things.
2. God’s way is right.
   a. Deu. 32:4 “4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”
   b. Psa. 19:8 “8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.”
   c. Psa. 119:75 “75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.”
   d. Psa. 119:128 “128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.”
3. Those who follow the Lord’s way are right.
   a. Pro. 4:11 “11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.”
   b. 1 John 3:7 “7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”

E. On the Lord’s side we receive better pay.
1. 1 Cor. 3:21 “21 Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;”
2. Physical blessings.
   a. Mat. 6:33 “33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
b. Mark 10:29-30  "29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

3. Spiritual Blessings.
   a. Eph. 1:3  "3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"
   b. Children of God; Gal. 3:26-27  "26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
   c. Heirs of God; Rom. 8:17  "17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

4. Eternally
   a. Heaven
      (1) Rev. 14:13  "13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."
      (2) 1 Pet. 1:4  "4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,"
   b. Hell
      (1) Mat. 13:41-42  "41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."
      (2) 2 Th. 1:8-9  "8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

II. WHO IS NOT ON THE LORD’S SIDE.
   A. The lawbreakers, immoral, and ungodly.
      1. Psa. 1:5  "5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous."
      2. Rom. 1:18  "18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"
      3. Gal. 5:19-21  "19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."
      4. 1 John 2:15-17  "15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

   B. Those who divide the body of Christ.
      1. Rom. 16:17-18  "17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."
2. Tit. 3-10-11 “10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; 11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.”
   a. Heretick in KJV is from the Greek αἱρετικός (hairetikos) and refers to one who is schismatic or factious or causing division.
   b. The ASV has “factious man” while the NKJV has “divisive man.”

C. Those who murmur, spread gossip, and rumors.
1. The tongue is a powerful instrument.
   a. Mat. 12:37 “37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”
   b. Jam. 3:5-12 “5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. 7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? 12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.”
2. Those who use the tongue improperly will perish.
   a. 1 Cor. 10:10 “10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.”
   b. Rom. 1:30, 32 “30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”
3. When we murmur and backbite, etc. we destroy ourselves.
   a. Gal. 5:15 “15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed of another.”
   b. Pro. 26:20 “20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.”
4. In discussing who will abide in God’s tabernacle which today is the church; Psa. 15:3 “3 He that backbith not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.”

D. The Neutral
1. There are not three sides that one can be on.
   a. It is not like countries in wars that maintain their neutrality.
   b. In the war between God and Satan, no one can maintain neutrality.
2. We are either for God and Christ or we are for Satan and against God.
   a. Mat. 12:30 “30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
   b. Rev. 3:15-16 “15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

E. Those asleep
1. It refers to those who are in sin.
   a. Rom. 13:11-14 “11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand:
let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof;"

b. 1 Cor. 15:34 "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."

2. Also refers to those who are not careful concerning their actions.
   a. 1 The. 5:6-7 "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night."
   b. Eph. 5:14 "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

F. Those who disparage the word.
1. By adding to or taking away from God’s word.
   a. Deu. 4:2 "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."
   b. Gal. 1:6-9 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."
   c. Rev. 22:18-19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

2. By not living according to that Word.
   a. Mat. 7:21-23 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."
   b. 2 The. 1:8-9 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

G. Denominationalism
1. Jesus came, purchased, established and is head over His church.
   a. Mat. 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
   b. Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
   c. Eph. 1:22-23 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

2. There is only one church which belongs to Christ.
   a. Eph. 4:4-6 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling: 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."


b. That is why the church is always referred to in the singular.

3. Denominations are the products of man, not God.
   a. This is the reason they wear names other than that of Christ.
   b. They, thus, stand in opposition to Christ and His one true church; Mat. 15:13 "13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up."

III. THOSE ON THE LORD’S SIDE.

A. Those who hate every false way.
   1. We should love the truth of God.
      a. Pro. 23:23 "23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."
      b. John 8:31-32 "31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
      c. John 17:17 "17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."
         (1) Thus a love for the Bible.
         (2) Psa. 1:2 "2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."
   2. The proper love of the truth will cause us to hate error.
      a. Psa. 119:104 "104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."
      b. Psa. 119:128 "128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way."
   3. Those on the Lord’s side will hate error whether it is doctrinal or in life.

B. Those who seek those things which are above.
   1. Col. 3:1-2 "1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
   2. 2 Cor. 4:18 "18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."
   3. We must place our affections and desires on things above.
      a. 1 John 2:15-17 "15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."
      b. Jam. 4:4 "4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

C. Those who put Christ first.
   1. Mat. 6:33 "33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
   2. We must recognize the value of the Christ and the kingdom.
      a. Mat. 13:44-46 "44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."
      b. Christ is of more value than anything else.
c. Mat. 10:37-38 "37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

3. To the church at Ephesus; Rev. 2:4-5 "4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

4. We must put Christ first in our time, abilities, money, affections, in every aspect of our lives.

D. Those who take up their cross daily and follow Christ.

1. Jesus gave this specific teaching on two different occasions.
   a. Luke 9:23-25 "23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?"
   b. Luke 14:26-27 "26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

2. We each have our own personal responsibilities to bear; Gal. 6:5 "5 For every man shall bear his own burden."

Conclusion: Are you on the Lord's side? By man's standard or by God's standard? We get on the Lord's side by obedience to His word.