“Stand, Therefore”  
Gal. 2:5; Eph. 6:13-14

Introduction:
A. The truth of the gospel will continue even if we do not stand (1 Pet. 1:25).
B. It will not continue with us and many if we do not stand, therefore:
   1. We must support the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).
   2. We must pass the truth to next generation. (2 Tim 1:5; 2:2).
   3. We must meet new challenges and threats in our time. (cf. Jude 3)
      a. Church restructuring: expanded women’s role etc.
      b. Quality of preaching: Both what is preached and how it is preached (cf. Matt. 10:19 cf. NIV)
      c. Moral permissiveness: Divorce and remarriage; Ethical looseness; sensuality.
      d. Glorification on human wisdom.
   4. We must stand with those who stand up for the truth (2 Tim. 1:16; 4:16).
C. Three requirements to effectively stand for the truth:

Discussion:
I. It Requires Thorough Preparation. (“having done all, to stand”)
   A. In knowledge.
      1. Of the truth ((John 8:32; 2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11).
      2. Of the opposition (2 Cor. 2:11)
   B. In practice.
      2. Put on whole armor of God. (Eph. 6:11-17).

II. It Requires Careful Evaluation.
   A. Evaluate the nature of the issue.
      2. A matter of faith or expediency? (cf. Kind of music a matter of faith; which song books expediency).
      3. A matter subject to compromise or not?
         a. Some things can and should be compromised for peace. (Jas. 3:17; Rom. 12:18).
         b. Some things must not be not be compromised for peace. (Gal. 2:5; 11-14).
   B. Evaluate seriousness of the issue.
      1. Is the purity of the church at stake? (cf. Gal. 2:5)
      2. Is the peace of the church at stake? (cf. Tit. 3:10; Rom. 16:17,18).
      3. Is the salvation of souls at stake?

III. It Requires Strong Determination. (“Stand, therefore”)
   A. Because standing firm is often unpopular with neighbors and brethren.
   B. Because standing firm is often uncomfortable. (cf. Acts 20:31).
      1. How can one enjoy rebuking anyone sharply?
      2. How can one enjoy withholding fellowship or expose one's error? (Eph. 5:11)
      3. How can one enjoy refusing to bid one godspeed? (2 John 9-11).
         a. Yet, must refuse to do so either explicitly or implicitly
         b. We refuse to bid godspeed to unscriptural churches, but do so to their members.
   C. Because standing firm is often costly.
      1. To personal relationships: family, friends, etc. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:20,21).
      2. To our temporal, physical, social, and material welfare.
   D. Because standing firm requires great faith in God’s assurances.
      1. That it is best all concerned - Us, the church, and even the opposition.
      2. That the rewards are far greater than any problems it may cause.

Conclusion:
A. “Those who stand for nothing, will fall for anything.”
B. Take a stand by obeying the truth.
C. Then continue to stand firm until the end.