A **Chanukah Exhortation**

Chanukah ***Recounts*** the **Story** of how the **Jews**→

Resisted **Unrighteousness**

Renewed themselves to **Holiness**

Rededicated the **Temple** and its **Service**

Rekindled "miraculously" the **Lights of the Menorah**

The **Chanukah Story**
Why is it ***important*** **to us**?

1. Like the **Maccabees**, ***we too*** are exhorted to ***resist*** the "**powers**" of **unrighteousness**

Put on the **full armor** of **God**, so that you will be able to ***stand firm*** **against** the **schemes** of the **devil.**

For **our struggle** is ***not*** against **flesh** and **blood**,
but against the ***rulers***, against the ***powers,***
against the ***world forces*** of this **darkness,**
against the **spiritual *forces* of wickedness** in the **heavenly *places***.
(Ephesians 6:11-12)

…for the **weapons** of **our warfare** are ***not*** of the **flesh**,
but ***divinely*** **powerful** for the ***destruction*** of **fortresses.**

We are ***destroying*** **speculations** and **every lofty thing** raised up
against the **knowledge of God**, and *we are* taking
every thought **captive** to the **obedience of Messiah**,..
(II Corinthians 10:4-5)

2. Like the **Maccabees**, ***we too*** are **not** to be **conformed** to the **culture** of this **world**, but be ***renewed*** to a **life characterized** by **godliness** and **holiness**

And do **not** be ***conformed*** to this **world**, but be ***transformed*** by the **renewing** of your **mind**, so that you may **prove** what the **will of God** is,
that which is ***good*** and ***acceptable*** and ***perfect***.
(Romans 12:2)

As obedient **children,** do **not** be ***conformed*** to the **former lusts**…

But like the **Holy One** who **called you**,
be holy yourselves also in all your **behavior**;
Because it is written,
"**YOU** SHALL **BE HOLY**, FOR **I AM HOLY.**"
(I Peter 1:13-16)

3. As the **Temple** was ***rededicated***, ***we too*** are exhorted to ***rededicate*** the **"temple"** of our **bodies** to that which **serves** and **glorifies Him**

Or do you not know that your **body** is a **temple** of the **Holy Spirit**
who is ***in you***, whom you have from **God**,
and that you are **not your own**?
(I Corinthians 6:19)

Therefore I urge you brethren, by the **mercies of God**,
to **present** your **bodies** a **living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to **God,**
which is your **spiritual service** of **worship**.

For this is the **will of God**, **your sanctification**; *that is*,
that you abstain from **sexual immorality**; that each of you know
how to **possess** his **own vessel** in **sanctification** and **honor**,
(I Thessalonians 4:3-4)

4. Just as the **Temple menorah** was ***rekindled*** to give **light** to the **Temple** on **Chanukah**, ***we too*** are **exhorted** to be **"living" menorahs,** and be "**lights**" in the midst of a ***dark*** **world**.

You are the **light** of the **world.**
A **city** set on a **hill** cannot be **hidden**;
let ***your*** **light** **shine** before **men** in such a way that they may see **your good works**, and ***glorify*** **your Father** who is in **heaven.**
(Matthew 5:14, 16)

Do all things without **grumbling** or **disputing;**
so that you will prove yourselves to be **blameless** and i**nnocent**,
children of God above reproach in the midst of a
crooked **and** ***perverse*** **generation,**
among whom **you** appear as **lights** in the **world,**
holding fast the **word of *life***,..
(Philippians 2:14-16a)

…for **you** were **formerly darkness**, but now **you** are **light in the Lord;**
walk as **children of light**…
(Ephesians 5:8)

Closing Comments