Growing in Christ

"Growing in Christ” | November 3, 2012 | Order Info

**Text:** Isaiah 35:10; Mark 10:45; Romans 6:12-23; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:16; Galatians 4:1-11; Colossians 2:15.

A suicide bomber killed 41 people in northern Afghanistan at a mosque last Friday (October 26). The target of the bomber was government officials inside the mosque, but the explosion happened outside among security forces, police, and civilians.

"The attack was the latest in a series of deadly strikes in recent weeks against Afghan army, police and government officials. The choice of targets suggests that the insurgents are increasingly turning against Afghan authorities and security forces now that NATO is drawing down toward a final withdrawal of foreign combat troops in 2014."

The United Nations states that the Taliban attacks are responsible for the large majority of civilian casualties in this war that is attempting to be ended. NATO is slowly working toward withdrawing all foreign soldiers by 2014. Insurgents are increasingly attacking Afghan authorities and Friday’s bombing is only one of many suicide bombings that have killed hundreds.

The bombing happened about the time the Afghan President Hamid Karzai was taping a message to his nation. He told the Taliban to “stop killing other Afghans” and to “stop the destruction of our mosques, hospitals and schools.” None of the government leaders inside the mosque were hurt.

“The NATO-led coalition's commander, U.S. Gen. John R. Allen, also condemned the attack. ‘This violence undertaken at
a place of worship, and during Eid, once again shows the insurgency's callous hypocrisy and disregard for religion and faith,' Allen said in a statement. Insurgents have staged numerous suicide bombings at mosques during the 11-year war.\(^2\)

"Not all suicide bombers accomplish their deadly missions. On that same day Afghan police officers caught and disarmed a teenage suicide bomber. He planned to detonate lethal explosives that were strapped to his stomach in a khaki suicide vest. The weapon could have killed dozens of innocent civilians. ‘The man was disguised in a police uniform and was captured in Baghlan in northern Afghanistan.’\(^3\)

Our Sabbath school lesson this week reminds us that there are evil powers in our world seeking to destroy us. Jesus Christ came to disable the enemy of humanity by dying on the cross for our sins. ‘Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it’ (Colossians 2:15 NKJV).

Don’t you look forward to the day when all the forces of Satan are stopped? Though that day is soon to come, we may find safety in Christ now. We may grow in Jesus and have victory in our lives now. But defeating the devil comes through putting on the full armor of God and standing in the shadow of the cross. Submitting to Christ is the only way we may be sheltered from the blasts of our greatest foe.

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1. Fox News
2. Ibid
3. The Sun

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