

A CHRISTIAN IS GOD'S SOLDIER – PART 2 OUR COMMANDER

29 September 2013, Dr Stephen Smith

John 10:10

But as for you, O man of God, flee from all these things; aim at and pursue righteousness (right standing with God and true goodness), godliness (which is the loving fear of God and being Christlike), faith, love, steadfastness (patience), and gentleness of heart.

Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold of the eternal life to which you were summoned and [for which] you confessed the good confession [of faith] before many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:11, 12 (Amplified)

The Christian life is a constant warfare. A thousand foes beset our pathway, and strong forces are in a perpetual struggle to gain control of our lives. The human heart is the world's greatest battlefield, and the contending forces are ever struggling for the mastery of that heart.

When Christ called us through the Gospel, He had a two-fold purpose:

First to save us from sin, making us His children, His ministers (kings and priests); and

Second, to use us as soldiers to fight in a warfare in which eternal principles are at stake.

No one can be a true soldier without being an ACTIVE soldier, and Christ needs soldiers - people of faith, courage, and devotion who will not back-off at any foe, and who will be constant in their opposition to anything that would degrade the lives of men.

- **Our Commander**

In the person of Jesus Christ, whom Paul speaks of as *the captain of our salvation* (Heb. 2:10), we have a Commander who by the *grace of God tasted death for every man* (Heb. 2:9). Jesus can have compassion on them that are out of the way, for He was invested in a body of flesh and *tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin* (Heb. 4:15). Thus He can have a perfect understanding of our needs and weaknesses. *He knows our frame; he remembered that we are dust* (Ps. 103:14).

God vested our Commander *with all power in heaven and in earth* (Matt. 28:18), so His authority to command is unlimited. He does not wage this warfare for His personal enrichment, for the extension of His own power or fame, but to *set the captives free* (Rom. 6:22), and *set all people free from the slavery of fearing death all their lives* (Heb. 2:15).

He FREELY provides ALL our battle gear:

- **Our Uniform**

The Christian soldier is required to *put on the Lord Jesus Christ* (Rom. 13:14). This uniform is put on in baptism, for *as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ* (Gal.3:27). This is the most attractive uniform ever worn by man. Christ's righteousness was without a flaw. He *did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth* (1 Peter 2:22), and we are required to wear His sinless robe of righteousness. We are to *put off the old man with his deeds" and put on "the new man which is renewed in knowledge, after the image of him that created him* (Col. 3:9-10).

- **Our Training**

We are required to *endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 2:3)* so that we might war a good warfare.

Soldiers are not trained in the science of war at the dining table! They are not even trained in the lecture room. They are required to go out on the drilling grounds and demonstrate the truths learned.

Paul wrote to Timothy: *And the things which thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2)*. That requires ACTIVE participation in the public work of the church.

Every soldier in Christ's army should be willing to take up any work that will enable him to *grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)*.

Christ will supply every soldier with the means and methods by which he can wage an aggressive warfare with the least danger to himself.