

THE ARMY of the LORD

Part I

By: Steve Allen

During WWI, the Department of Defense created the icon of Uncle Sam and the slogan, "I Want You."...."This idea was not first conveyed in this country. It was first given by Jesus in Matthew 11:28 when he says, "*Come unto me, all [ye] that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.*" The Lord calls us to be apart of him. But, what does the reference to Uncle Sam have to do with this fact...Well; to be in the LORD is to be in His Army.

Brethren, we are at war. Make no mistake about it. Look what Paul has to say about it in Ephesians 6:12, "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*" Why does Paul make this statement? Let us look at the context of the passage by starting in verse 10 as it says:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of the world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girded about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with prayers and supplication."

Paul not only talks about war, but he tells us specifically how to protect ourselves and what weapons that we have at our disposal. Paul specifically relates this concept with the exact implements of a Roman soldier. Do you think that a soldier would intentionally forget any part of his armor? Do you think that a soldier would forget his weapon? Do we, as Christians sometimes not take up *all* of our armor? Do we sometimes *forget* our weapons? If you will notice that I said weapons. I think that sometimes that we forget that *prayer* is one of our weapons not just the Word.

It is like Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:3-4, "*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of [this] life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*"

We are soldiers. We are at war, and the war is with Satan. As soldiers, we are to please God. Satan, being a powerful enemy (1 Peter 5:8], can and will use every opportunity to cause us to stumble. Paul is encouraging Timothy to remain separate from the world. Paul says it this way in Colossians 3:2 "*Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.*"

Why did Paul encourage Timothy to do this? Let's look in Matthew 6:21, "*For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.*" If we put effort or thought into something then we will be drawn in the direction that we were working.

It is essential for us to focus our efforts toward spiritual things not earthly things. This is the point that Paul is trying to relay to Timothy and to us. As soldiers, we have the task of defending the faith. Like Jude said in verse 3, “...*contend earnestly for the faith...*” The word contends means that we must work...even fight to find the faith and maintain it.

We must not only defend the faith, but we must attack evil, Satan, and sin. How do we do this? We must convert people. We must speak the truth. They is why Paul repeatedly tells us to put on the armor of God. Look in 2 Corinthians 6:7, “*By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left.*”

Look again at 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but might through God to the pulling down of strong holds;...)*”

Let us look at 1 Thessalonians 5:8, “*But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*” In Romans 13:12, “*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 armor of light.*”

Paul said he is a fellow soldier with all Christians in Philippians 2:25, “*Yet I suppose it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labor, and fellow soldier, but your messenger. And he that ministered to my wants.*” He repeats this idea to Philemon in verse 2, “*And to our beloved Apphia and Archippus our fellow soldier...*” Paul encourages Timothy to remain steadfast in the war in Timothy 1:18, “*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.*”

1 Timothy 6:12 “*Fight the good fight of faith.*” Paul concluded his encourages to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:7 by saying, “*I have fought a good fight.*” Can we say the same? If not, why not? We are at war. Let us act appropriately

SA

THE CHRISTIAN ARMY

Part II
By: Jeff Arrington

What is the Christian Army? What does the Christian Army imply? Is this a literal concept or a figurative concept? Is the Army Spiritual or physical? The answer: The Christian Army is all the above. We as Christians are at war with the allurements of a sinful world.

In order to be a soldier of God's army we must be born again. The bible teaches that we must be born again. It's referred to as a new birth. [It is called, regeneration, something is produced by it; see John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; 1John 5:1.] [For results of the new birth see, 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 6:4-11; 1 John 3:9; 1 John 2:29; 1John 3:10; 1 John 5:4]

Sure, as in all armies, there are consequences, a price to be paid, and rewards to be had. There is victory and defeat, winners and losers, the heaven bound and the spiritually doomed, 1Corinthians 9:24; Philippians 3:13-14; 2 Timothy 4:7.

You must desire to join the army. You must want to become a soldier. You have to want to pay the price and count the cost, Romans 8:35. You will not be drafted or be offered conscientious objection status. You will not be allowed to be fence sitter, bench warmer, or apathetic.

When we make the commitment to join-up we must prepare ourselves, let us call it "basic training" Ephesians 6:10-20, which is about the whole armor of God to include prayer. The Bible is the battle plan and our involvement, meditation and practice in the word of God is essential for success, 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The question, "Who will lead us to war?" The answer is God, look at Deuteronomy 20:1.

Well, the Bible teaches that Christ Jesus is the head of the church, Ephesians 1:22. There are several different terms or ways to describe the body of believers. The Christian Army is one. So this makes Jesus the Commander in Chief.

Christianity will not be an easy road or a cakewalk, but we can believe the promise that God will provide a victory and the battle will not be in vain, Matthew 5:12.

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THE CHRISTIAN ARMY

Part III

By: Bill Richardson

In this study, we would do well to note first, that Army and Armies are mentioned and spoken of over a hundred and twenty five times in the bible. To preface Army with "Christian" gives cause for us to be more aware and to have a stronger desire to study, take note of, and take interest in what, why, and how we are to be involved in the army, "The Christian Army."

Let us begin by looking at an Army (without the preface) and note if there is a parallel to the Christian Army. We know that armies are involved in warfare. An Army is defined by the dictionary as; men organized and disciplined, (that is trained, prepared, and ready), for battle.

With only this said, we know that there are applications, which can be made to the Christian Army. Knowing this we must let it have place in our duty and responsibility as soldiers...Soldiers of the Cross.

In Civil Government, presently, men and women are not drafted; they enlist in the army voluntarily. They are assembled and trained to become proficient in their duties and responsibilities. That is not voluntary! Their training is a strenuous regiment of highly organized and technically detailed training. In addition, it includes bookwork, fieldwork, practice, and on-the-job-training, called drills. In this way, they are ready when called to arms. In fact, it could be determined as a matter of life or death under certain situations and conditions. Believe me, soldiers know this...they were taught it, they take it seriously, and they learn.

The soldiers know who their Commander In Chief is as well as the chain of command, up and down. There are many things, which can be said of armies and civil duties etc. But the need which we have and which this study is all about is discussing and admonishing one another to enlist in the Christian Army, accept the inherent training, gain the knowledge of duty, and the acceptance of performance of duty in diligence perseverance. The reason for doing so.....because the old devil is out there as a roaring lion waiting to devour whomever he can, 1 Peter 5:8. Yes, the devil is one of the enemies, which the Christian Army must engage in warfare. In all diligence and perseverance, we must engage the devil in warfare.

Get your mind set again on the design and purpose of an army that is organized and disciplined for battle. Now think of the Christian Army and duty or challenge and warfare against an enemy. The Christian Army must be organized and disciplined for battle.

There are many and varied enemies which we must engage in warfare. One has already been named above, (the devil). The seriousness in which we recognize and realize the danger of enemy, defeat of the enemy should be our motivation for enlisting in God's army. Knowing that victory or defeat means eternal suffering or eternal joy should motivate anyone to take the battle seriously.

The Christian army is in battle and warfare against the world. The counsel given by the bondservant is, *“Do you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God”* (James 4:4).

Do we know the definition of enemy and enmity? They are synonymous words. As far as I am concerned, they are two ugly words. They are wrapped up in ugliness. Have you ever heard the expression, “Ugly-as-sin?” That is what those words are, sin! Enmity: plain and simple hostility!

Let us look at the counsel of 1 John 2:15-17, *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world...the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...are not of the Father but are of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”*

Yes, the seriousness of the battle can be comprehended when we examine our enemy whom we should, “check-out” against God’s word. Thus, “know your enemy!” Know also; he who does the will of God abides forever.

There are many enemies, which engage the Christians’ warfare. Now study with me the warfare against the flesh. When we walk in the Spirit we are not in warfare with the flesh. The problem is the sinful human nature is directly opposite to living under the control of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says in Galatians:

“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law, (the law of condemnation). Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions dissensions, heresies, envy, murder, drunkenness, revelries, and the like, of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in times past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:17-21).

How does the last statement in the above-cited scripture affect your thinking? The last part of Galatians 5:21, *“...those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”* What should one think? When we come to the knowledge that our soul *will not inherit the Kingdom of God*...friend, be frightened! If we are not in God’s Army and in warfare against those things, which are listed in the scripture cited above, we better be doing that which we are obligated to do. War against the flesh in a war for life and that is why diligence and perseverance in doing HIS WILL must be strong and constant in our life. The works of the flesh are not to be practiced, as we have been told in the past. This writer confesses to you, I am full of human nature. I am sinful! I pray everyday, multiple times, confessing to God and begging for forgiveness. I pray for His strength of help. I am in the Christian Army and I am engaged in warfare against the flesh. I am so

2 Timothy 2:3 says, “*You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*” This will strengthen us. In our service as good soldier, there are the lessons of realization of a soldier’s endurance, discipline, and perseverance. In this we can, we must, rejoice to the extent that we are partakers of Christ’s suffering, that when His glory is revealed, we may also be glad with exceeding joy, (1 Peter 4:12-13). Suffering for Christ makes us partners with Him in His work.

The duty badges of the Christian soldiers are: enduring hardship, 2 Timothy 2:3; show courage, 2 Timothy 4:7-8; fight hard, 1 Timothy 6:12; be pure, 1 Peter 2:11-12; be alert, 1 Peter 5:8; be faithful 1 Timothy 1:18-20.

The Christian Army—a great “outfit”! Just think; if you are a Christian, you are one of the Christian Army soldiers. Are you, as described, a *good soldier*? If you are not a Christian, not a Christian Army soldier, do you want to be one? I hope you want to enlist if you are not! The enclosure, pages 7 & 8, “What One Must Do to Be Saved”, explains the enlistment procedures. Please study it and make the right decision. God will bless you if you do.

You are invited to study with us again. We hope that you will. God loves you and we do too.

Steven Allen
Jeff Arrington
Bill Richardson

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

There are five acts of obedience that one must be diligent to manifest in their life and to answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" They are:

1. Hear God's Word. (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:23).
2. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repent of passed sins. (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confess Christ as the Son of God. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37).
5. Be baptized (immersed) into Christ for remission (forgiveness) of past sins. (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; and Romans 6:3-4).

****NOTE**:** After obedience to the above five steps live faithful unto death and He will give you the crown of life (1 Peter 2:11-12; Revelation 2:10). Framing of these acts are listed below for learning and obeying, and for teaching of obedience.

1). HEAR GOD'S WORD: (Romans 10:14, 17), *"How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed and how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard?" "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* Faith developed by hearing the Word precedes all acts that one must do to be saved. Faith is our confidence in and the realization of our dependence on and great need to be obedient to the LORD JESUS CHRIST. To attain those attributes one must hear the Word and gain knowledge from the Word so as to know one's duty and responsibility.

James 2:22: *"Do you see that faith was working together with His works, and by works faith was made perfect?"* Notice his concluding remarks in James 2:24, 26: *"You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."*

2). BELIEVE: (Mark 16:16; Acts 16:30, 31; Romans 10:10), Faith alone will not save. Faith in JESUS CHRIST developed into confessed belief is just the beginning. If you confess with your mouth the LORD JESUS and believe in your heart and faith that GOD has raised CHRIST from the dead, you will be saved.

3.) REPENT: Man is a sinful creature! (Acts 17:30) teaches us that, *"In times past, time of ignorance God overlooked, but now HE commands all men everywhere to repent."* Repentance is expressed by remorse or regret for past wrongful acts done or of the failure of not doing, and with determination changes to one's heart to do good and to do GOD'S will.

4). CONFESS: (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32, 33), JESUS said, *"Who ever confess HIM before men, HE will confess them before MY FATHER who is in Heaven."* The confession one makes is the belief that JESUS CHRIST is the Son of God. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- 5). BE IMMERSED- (BAPTIZED) (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-5). After the acts of 1 through 4 above one is baptized into Christ. Jesus died, was buried, and was resurrected on the third day. The act of baptism symbolizes a *death*, a *burial*, and a *resurrection*. So the question, "Why be baptized?"
- A). for the remission of sins and to receive the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT;
 - B). to be saved;
 - C). to put on CHRIST in baptism; and
 - D). to be added to the church, THE BODY OF CHRIST!

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Jesus came from heaven for the express reason to "*seek and save the lost*" (Luke 19:10). Paul declared, "*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" (Rom. 3:23). Everyone needs Jesus and without Him, there is NO salvation (Acts 4:12; John 14:6).

Therefore, those that "*obey him*" (Heb. 5: 9) are saved. Obeying Jesus involves, *faith* (John. 8:24), *repentance* (Luke 13:3, 5), *confession* (Mark 10:32, 33) and *baptism* (Mark 16:16). We must also remain faithful to Him (Revelation 2:10).

Remember, God is "*not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus died for you and me.

These are TRUTHS' of the Bible. These are words of truth to hear, or read, study, LEARN, accept, and obey, then live by them. May GOD bless us in our diligent effort in learning, obeying, and teaching these great truths to others and enjoying the blessings of them in our lives!

Please use this outline and build on it when teaching others. Fold it up and keep it in your Bible. Please, pray always for the success of all our efforts in teaching and serving others, and in doing God's Will.