

Soldiers Of The Cross

Sunday AM 06/12/22

Introduction:

This past week we had the 78th Anniversary of D-Day. One of the greatest invasions to ever occur. Over 5,000 ships, 13,000 aircraft, and 160,000 men involved in this battle. One has to remember the bombs, ships, aircraft did not win the battle but the men who were on those ships, in those planes, and stormed those beaches won the battle. I want to use this time to think of us as soldiers of the cross and some things we must remember. Paul used the soldier and his dress in different passages to teach us about being Christians. **2 Corinthians 10.3-5**

2 Timothy 2:1 *You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*

I) Be Strong

A) In the grace

1. Grace – unmerited favor, a gift provided from God.
2. Think of David and his battle with Goliath.
 - a. David was young, a shepherd, but also had fought a lion and a bear. **1 Samuel 17.36**
 - b. Yet David focused on God.

1 Samuel 17:37 *Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"*

1 Samuel 17:46a *"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you.*

B) In Christ

1. Where is your strength – when you are challenged, trials, temptation, etc.
2. Not in your physical strength,
 - a. not in numbers (David seemed to have forgotten this one time as he decided to number the children of Israel and got into trouble with God).
 - b. Not in the preacher
3. Found only in the Lord
 - a. We put on Christ in baptism

Galatians 3:27 *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

- b. We walk with Christ in our daily lives

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

- c. The better my union with Christ, the stronger I become.

II) Commit

A) Entrust to faithful men who will teach others

1. Entrust – to deposit, treasure- soldiers are to train other soldiers.
2. Paul was training Timothy and Titus to fight the good fight.
3. Faithful – trust worthy
 - a. Not prominent men in the community
 - b. Not successful men in commerce
 - c. Not the most educated men
 - d. But those who are faithful to the word of God.

B) Suffer hardship as a good soldier

1. Paul spoke in military terms to get across a particular point.
 - a. Soldiers march as directed, in the same direction.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 *But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.*

- b. Soldiers wear clothing proper for fighting.
2. In this passage, soldiers endure hardships- in training, inclement weather, hostile enemies, etc.
3. David and his men endured many hardships
 - a. Hostile enemies – Philistines, Moabites, read of his “men of renown” and you will see a lot of battles not mentioned in any other passages.
 - b. Enemies within his own household, King Saul, etc.
4. We might have our own enemies but we can be confident in God’s love for us and our love for God.

Romans 8:35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

III) Be Active in The Right Things

A) Active service is required in warfare.

1. Soldiers do not get entangled in the affairs of everyday life.

2. Roman soldiers had
 - a. Families – Cornelius in **Acts 10**
 - b. Servants –

Matthew 8:5 *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, **6** saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." **7** And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."*

3. Roman soldiers did not allow “things” to stop them from their duties. They had their priorities right.

Josephus, the Jewish historian of the time, wrote a description of a Roman soldier in which he said, “Each soldier every day throws all his energy into his drill, as though he were in action. Hence that perfect ease with which they sustain the shock of battle; no confusion breaks their customary formation, no panic paralyzes, no fatigue exhausts them. All their camp duties are performed with the same discipline, the same regard for security; the procuring of wood, food-supplies, and water, as required – each party has it allotted task; nothing is done without a word of command. The same precise is maintained on the battlefield.”

- B) Christians have to keep their priorities right

Matthew 6:33 *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

1. Christ comes first

Matthew 10:37 *"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."*

2. Which makes us better mothers/fathers/sons/daughters.
3. But it is easy to get entangled in everyday affairs.

4. David's brothers actually wanted him to get entangled.

1 Samuel 17:26 Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" **27** And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him." **28** Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

IV) Go To the Battle

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

A) Shoes of the soldier

1. What kind of shoes are you wearing? Did you know the Battle at Gettysburg was partly over shoes. There was a shoe factory there and Major General Henry Heth heard there was a stock pile of shoes there. He sent Brigadier General Johnston Petigrew into town to find those shoes which started the skirmish which started the Battle.
2. Shoes are for walking – go places.
3. Jesus says to go into all the world

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

B) David

1. David did not stand idly by when Goliath challenged them. He went to the first line.

2. He was willing to stand out from his brothers and the other soldiers.

1 Samuel 17:32 Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

C) We should be going toward the goal of heaven,

Conclusion:

What motives the Christian soldier? Love for his soul and the soul of others. A love for Christ came and died for us, a love for God in sending the Messiah, for the Holy Spirit revealing to us His word.