

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GOOD SOLDIER CITIZEN OF THE NATION?

Proverbs 14:34; Ephesians 6:12-17

[Review: Not only should we recognize our Enlistment and Enablement]

I. RESTRAIN YOURSELF FROM ENTANGLEMENTS.

1. Not only is it important what a soldier does, but what he doesn't do is just as important.
2. A soldier can be destroyed by getting entangled with other things of the world just as easily as he can die on the battlefield.
3. II Tim. 2:4 states, ***No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life that he may please Him who has chosen him to be a soldier.***
4. Matthew 6:24 states, ***No man can serve two masters.***
5. James 1:8 says, ***A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.***
6. I Thessalonians 2:4 states, ***But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak: not as pleasing men, but God, who tests our hearts.***
 - A. There are many things that are good but are not the best.
 - B. The commander wants soldiers to do the best things not good things.
7. The word **ENTANGLED** means to entwine like braiding the hair.
 - A. Samson got entwined with the affairs of the world and lost his life.
 - B. Lot got entwined with Sodom and lost almost all his family.
 - C. The Bible says in Genesis 13:10 that Lot looked toward Sodom.
 - D. In Genesis 13:12, Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom.
 - E. In Genesis 14:12, Lot moved to Sodom.
 - F. Lot never intended to end up in Sodom, but he first looked, then leaned, and finally lived in Sodom.
8. We need to walk to please God, and when a soldier makes a decision, the biggest question is not whether it is safe or popular, but is it right?
9. The church should receive God's orders from heaven just as an army receives order from a military commander.

[Recognize your Enlistment, Enablement, Restrain yourself from Entanglements]**II. RECEIVE AND GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT.**

1. We do not stand alone even though we feel like it.
2. We are not fighting for victory, but from victory.
3. II Corinthians 2:14a states, ***Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ***

4. Colossians 2:15 states, ***And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.***
5. I Corinthians 15:57 says, ***But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

[Not only recognize your enlistment, enablement, restrain yourself from entanglement, receive and give encouragement, now lastly:]**III. RESPECT THE EQUIPMENT** (Ephesians 6:12-17).

1. Safety equipment is often annoying to wear, but it is issued to prevent severe injury and ultimately to save your life.
2. In Ephesians, we are instructed to wear the whole armor of God.
 - A. The armor enables a soldier to stand before the battle (v. 11).
 - B. Withstand during the battle (v. 13).
 - C. Stand after the victory (v. 14).
3. The armor is first defensive and secondarily offensive.
4. The armor is worn to protect areas of need in our lives and to reject the strategy of Satan in attacking that area.
5. The armor is as follows:
 - A. The Helmet of Salvation.
 - B. The Breastplate of Righteousness
 - C. The Girdle of Truth (The girdle is more than a belt. It binds things tightly together around one's waist.)
 - D. The Shoes of Peace (This assures the soldier's firm footing.)
 - E. The Shield of Faith
 - F. The Sword of the Spirit (This is the Word of God.)
 - 1) Material swords are dead and grow dull, but the spiritual sword becomes sharper the more that it is used.
 - 2) A material sword brings death to living people, but the Sword of the Spirit brings life to people who are dead in sin.
 - 3) Material swords cut the outer person, but God's sword pierces the inner person and exposes exactly what is there.
 - 4) Military training manuals may become outdated, but not the Word of God, for it is forever settled in heaven (Ps. 119:89).
6. All the armor must be put on in the spirit of humility and prayer.
7. When we dress out with God, victory is certain!!!

Conclusion: Are you a soldier and a follower of the Lamb?

Where will you be when the battle for the Lord needs to be fought?