

Revision: Rethinking Church VIII

“Good Soldiers”

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on **the whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness of this world**, against **spiritual wickedness in high places**

The church is compared to an army or militant force.

An army is a large organized body of armed personnel trained for war especially on land.

This is the militant attitude, **advancement** and actions associated with the church.

- A militant *is the person engaged in warfare or combat.*

I

The church is an **advancing** force.

We are to endure hardship as good soldiers.

2 Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, **as a good soldier** of Jesus Christ. ⁴ **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.

The church is to stay free from entanglement with this world.

Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of **the leaven of the Pharisees**, and of **the leaven of Herod**.

The leaven of Herod is **nationalism** and political advancement.

- Review *Evangelical Rev. Robert Schenck, President of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute, interviews on YouTube.*
- Remember we are from another kingdom.

NKJ John 18:36 Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world**. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now **My kingdom is not from here.**”

Beware, what they teach and how they live.

They teach but they do not do.

Luke 12:1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the **leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.** ² For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

The leaven of the Pharisees is hypocrisy and their doctrine or teachings.

Consider also **Matthew 16:13**

Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the **doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**

Read **Matthew 23**

- *Don't get entangled!*

II

The church is a **protected** force.

We are told to stay armed and protected.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

In warfare there are victors, the wounded and casualties.

- The study of the books of **Joshua and Judges** teach us principles of warfare which parallel spiritual combat.

III

The church is a **special** force.

We are told our weapons are not carnal or fleshly.

KJV 2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth

itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; ⁶ And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

- The church is an advancing force.

Mess **Matthew 16:18** And now I'm going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

We are to take territory.

- Our “WEAPONS” are powerful.

IV

The church is an **occupying** force.

Luke 19:12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. ¹³ And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Occupy means spread out in your influence, till everything feels the impact of your presence.

Consider **Psalm 149:1**

Psalm 149

- ¹ **Praise ye the LORD.
Sing unto the LORD a new song,
And his praise in the congregation of saints.**
- ² Let Israel rejoice in him that made him:
Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
- ³ Let them praise his name in **the dance:**
Let them sing praises unto him with the **timbrel and harp.**
- ⁴ For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people:
He will beautify the meek with salvation.
- ⁵ Let the saints be joyful in glory:
Let them *sing aloud upon their beds.*
- ⁶ **Let the high praises of God be in their mouth,
And a twoedged sword in their hand;**
- ⁷ To execute vengeance upon the heathen,

- And* punishments upon the people;
8 To bind their kings with chains,
And their nobles with fetters of iron;
9 To execute upon them the judgment written:
This honour have all his saints.
Praise ye the LORD¹

There is the church *jubilant*.

There is the church *militant*.

There is power in your praise.

¹ [The Holy Bible: King James Version](#). (2009). (Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version., Ps 149). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.