

# Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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## We're in the Army Now! <sup>1</sup>

**T**here is a song we sang as young children, "I may never ride in the cavalry, march in the infantry, shoot the artillery; I may never fly o'er the enemy, but I'm in the Lord's Army..."

Perhaps the question is, If you are not in the Lord's army, whom are you serving? Let us go to the passage that Paul wrote in his second letter to young Timothy. Paul says to Timothy, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (II Tim 2.1). Last month we found that we are to stand steadfast. This is what Paul is saying to Timothy: "Be strong . . ." We must stand strong in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul knew well how hard and challenging it was to stand strong in the midst of persecution. He understood that he was to edify the body of Christ, to edify young Timothy.

Paul spoke clearly concerning the Word of the Lord, and he gave very clear directives from the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had singleness of heart and mind; he was focused on Jesus Christ. He wrote to Timothy what Timothy needed to hear, to know. Paul did not speak folly or frivolity to people; he spoke not what he thought they wanted to hear because he knew he was being held accountable by the Lord God to speak forth the truth of God in Christ Jesus. Ezekiel 1-3 and 33 makes it clear that those whom God calls are held accountable to speak forth the truth. If you believe for one moment that you are a follower of Jesus Christ but are not called to speak forth the truth of Jesus Christ from His Holy Word, you may want to get on your knees and seek the Lord in your life, seek His guidance – clarity of hearing.

Paul is clear that what he preaches and teaches he lives. He understands that ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ is a way of life. It is not words, but a life lived for the Lord Jesus Christ – daily. I believe it was St. Francis of Assisi who said, "Preach always, and, if necessary, use words."

A nation does not win a war with soldiers whose allegiance is to another country. A nation does not win a war with soldiers whose allegiance is to the gods of this world. The Lord is not calling numbers to serve Him (Jdg 6); He is calling followers to walk with Him, to walk in obedience to Him – as He has

The Bible says, "...strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few there be that find it**" (Mt 7.14). People have scorned the Lord Jesus; and now, there is little thought of Him. People have lived unto themselves, pleasing themselves; and now, they are apathetic and have no interest as all their attention, their whole life, has been spent for the gods of this world. They have sold out (Rom 1). There will be those who seek to enter, but will be rejected (Lk 13.24; Mt 7.21-23).

Awaken! Awaken ye that sleep! Eternity is awaiting each of us. Where will you spend eternity? "Jesus is tenderly calling today . . ." "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom 10.13).

### Enlist in the army of the Lord this day and be saved!

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**Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ**

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

<sup>1</sup> Thank you, FrBB

already won the war. We have to walk through the battles to get where we need to be so we can trust the Captain of our army, knowing He has gone before us. When our Captain goes before us, as in II Chronicles 20, we need only to acknowledge, as did Jehoshaphat, that we have no might.

"...for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes *[are]* upon thee" (II Chr 20.12).

A nation cannot win a war with those who know not the Captain of the host of righteousness, Jesus Christ. A nation cannot win a war walking with those who do not have ears to hear the Captain of the host of holiness. A nation cannot win a war walking with those who know not the Captain of Israel, who know not the Captain that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob served, who know not the living God. So! We need to walk in obedience to Jesus Christ, trusting that the victory is already won by the Captain of the Lord's host. We walk with Him; we respond to His commands; we go forth in great confidence to that to which we are called: a life of holiness – come what may.

We may say that we are in the Lord's army, but are we really? Have we committed our life to the Captain of the Lord's host? Have we submitted to the Captain of the Lord's host? Are we willing to be what we each are called to be and do in the Lord's army?

In the army of Judah in the time of II Chronicles 20, we find that the Lord's army had singers. We find that the people were willing to walk in obedience to the commands given to them. They knew and trusted the Captain of the Lord's host. The Captain told them, "Ye shall not need to fight..."

Ye shall not *[need]* to fight in this *[battle]*: set yourselves, stand ye *[still]*, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD *[will be]* with you.

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *[his]* face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

And the Levites, of the children of Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy *[endureth]* for ever.

And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. (II Chr 20.17-22)

What would happen today if our nation followed the living God, committed their lives to Him and Him alone, walked in obedience to Him? What if our nation were still a nation that believed in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and chose to come together to pray as is stated in II Chronicles 7.14? We have become apathetic, lethargic to the Word of the living God, the God of Israel. God's wrath is upon this nation, but let us be aware that the Lord God of Israel has already won. We need only to remain in the army of the Lord and walk as He directs – as he directed the army of Judah in the time of II Chronicles 20.

As we walk in obedience to the Lord, I ask, Where are the singers who are singing the songs of Zion? Where are the singers that are in love with the Lord Jesus Christ and are singing HIS praise, marching before the army of the Lord? I would ask another question, Where are the worshipers of the Lord God Almighty? Where are the true worshipers of Jesus Christ? How long has it been since you experienced the presence of the Captain of the host of the Lord as is written in Joshua 5.13-15?

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *[Art]* thou for us, or for our adversaries?

And he said, Nay; but *[as]* captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest *[is]* holy. And Joshua did so.

How long since you stood on Holy ground as did Joshua, as did Moses? How long since you knew the powerful presence of the Lord? This is not a high moment that allows you to walk on glibly with the world. This is a time of knowing that you have been touched anew by Holy God and are changed; your life is changed to a life of holiness, godliness.

A *tapestry* comes to mind that poignantly depicts where we are today.

There are millions and millions to the bottom left of the tapestry who are apathetic, who are lethargic and their arms are overhead waving with their body giving way to a slow sway – as – though they are doing something, but they are indeed in a position of being unable to make a decision to move out of the fire around them. Then there is a road with the words 'This is the way; walk ye in it' that leads from them diagonally to The Cross that is near the upper right hand corner of the tapestry. There is the empty tomb just beyond The Cross with the words, 'He is not here; He is risen.' Then the Holy City just beyond the empty tomb. (drcc 1994)