



The Church

Lesson 6: The Church is an Army Engaged in Warfare

1. Introduction

The scriptures reveal more than seventy symbolic pictures of the church such as a family, the Body of Christ, a vineyard, the Bride of Christ, and many more.

However, the most dominating picture of the church is that of an army.

2. _____

Exodus 15:3

Isaiah 42:13

3. Believers are described as soldiers in God's army.

2 Timothy 2 is written from the Apostle Paul to his spiritual son, Timothy. In this chapter he tells Timothy that he is soldier and lists the characteristics of a soldier in God's army.

4. Characteristics of a soldier

- _____

2 Timothy 2:1

Definition of STRONG: Empowered and increased with supernatural strength

- _____

2 Timothy 2:2

Timothy was submitted under Paul. What he learned from Paul, he passed onto others.

- _____

2 Timothy 2:3, 4

Committed believers do not have the privileges of civilian life. They do not have time to be consumed with the world's affairs.

The Greek word for affairs means a preoccupation with civilian life.

A Roman trainer forbade his soldiers from going near cities, lest they be enticed.

- _____

2 Timothy 2:5-10

- _____

2 Timothy 2:11-13

- _____

2 Timothy 2:14-19

- _____

2 Timothy 2:20-23

- _____

2 Timothy 2:24-26

5. _____

Ephesians 6:11-18

The books of the New Testament were letters written to churches.

Many of the things Paul the Apostle instructs the church in assume that the believer is a part of the church.

This is why some believers are living defeated lives. They falsely think that verses of victory over the enemy are only speaking to them – as a single believer. But this is often not the case.

Ephesians 6:11 tells YOU (single believer) to put on the whole armor of God.

However, in Ephesians 6:12, the next verse, it says that WE wrestle.

We _____ together. We _____ together.

As a matter-of-fact, the Book of Ephesians gives us several promises that can only be claimed by the believer who is a part of the local church.

Ephesians 1:1

Who is Paul writing to? – The church

Ephesians 1:15

That is a love for the church.

Ephesians 1:16-18

Could it be possible that many Christians are living in confusion because this was a prayer prayed by Paul for people who loved the saints? What if you don't love the saints?

Paul then talks about our position of victory within the context of the church . . .

Ephesians 1:22, 23

This is five chapters previous to telling us to put on the armor of God.

If you are not a part of a local church body, you have already begun a fight with the devil you can't win.

Paul even uses the example of a Roman soldier, whose armor was designed to be used with other soldiers.

The shields of each soldier locked together with one another.

Ephesians 4:4-15

One way to the devil can get you to live in defeat is to warp your thinking about the gifts that Jesus has given to the church.

The devil works to undermine the five-fold ministry gifts.

The five-fold ministry gifts were so important to Jesus that He set them in place before He ascended to the Father.

Ephesians 4:8-11

Jesus died, went to hell, rose from the dead, told Mary not to touch him because He had not ascended into heaven yet (offered blood on the mercy seat).

But as soon as he was ascended he gave gifts – the five-fold gifts. These gifts are vitally important.

Jesus thought the ministry gifts were so important to the Body of Christ that He set them over his body first – before anything else.

There is spiritual authority in the Body of Christ.

- _____
- When you don't understand the importance of an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher

Jesus did this for the perfecting of the saints. Jesus gave these gifts to the Body of Christ – the church.

Ephesians 4:11-16

In verse 16 Paul is talking about the Body again.

Is it possible that we are not equipped because we have lost respect for the Body and the leadership God has put in our lives?

Is it possible that we are not growing up because we are not a part of the body like we should be?

Is it possible I am not changing the way I should – becoming more like Christ – because I am not an active part of my church?

Ephesians 4:17-24

After this Ephesians talks about our relationships with each other, with our spouses, with our children, and with our employer. All of these things are directly affected by our place in the Body of Christ.

Then finally in Ephesians 6 we are told how to fight and be victorious – not as an individual believer. We are taught how to be victorious as a party of the Body or the army.

6. _____

Matthew 5:13, 14

In the days of Jesus salt was used as a preservative, flavor enhancer, an antiseptic, a healing agent, a protective agent against evil spirits, and a fertilizer.

Light penetrates darkness and dispels it.

In other words, salt and light influence. _____

7. In the last days, the church is powerful and anointed to bring in a great harvest.

Matthew 24:14

This could only be accomplished by _____

Acts 2:17

Ephesians 5:27

8. The persecuted church

Matthew 5:11, 12

- First persecution

Acts 4:1-3

What was the outcome of this persecution?

Acts 4:33

- Second persecution

Acts 5:17, 18

What was the outcome of this persecution?

Acts 5:41, 42

- Third persecution

Acts 7:54-58

Acts 8:3 *As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.*

What was the outcome of this persecution?

Acts 8:4

- Forth persecution

Acts 12:1, 2

What was the outcome of this persecution?

Acts 12:24

- Fifth persecution

Acts 13:44, 45

Acts 13:50

What was the outcome of this persecution?

Acts 13:49

Acts 13:52