

## ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

2 Timothy 2:1-8

November 9, 2008 Sunday AM

### INTRODUCTION

- A. Veterans Day is an annual American holiday honoring military veterans. Its both a federal holiday and a state holiday in all states, it is usually observed on November 11, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. It is also celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world.
- B. The Apostle Paul draws an analogy between soldiers and Christians in our text.
- C. How are Christians like soldiers according to Paul?

### I. FIRST, LIKE SOLDIERS, CHRISITANS MUST BE STRONG.

- A. This is what Paul says—v.1.
- B. This seems like a contradiction in terms. How?
  - 1. On one hand, Paul says Christians should be strong in themselves: **“You then, my son, be strong.....”** It’s a call to personal exertion and strength. Its like Larry the Cable Guy says, **“Git-R-Done!!!”**
  - 2. On the other hand, Paul says Christians are to depend on God’s strength: **“....be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”**.
  - 3. Both calls are legitimate. It’s a call to **“dependent responsibility”**.
    - a. Some Christians think its all up to them.
    - b. Others think its all up to God and stop trying.
  - 4. Paul is saying both of these attitudes are wrong and unbiblical.
  - 5. The old Puritan motto has it right when it said, **“Pray and Work”**. It’s a reminder that prayer and work go together.
  - 6. Paul agrees in **Philippians 2:12-13**.  
**Philippians 2:12-13 ..... work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you.....**

### II. SECOND, LIKE SOLDIERS, CHRISTIANS MUST EXPECT HARDSHIP.

- A. This is what Paul says—v.3.
  - 1. Don’t be surprised by hardship.
  - 2. Don’t be discouraged by hardship either.
- B. In the 2000 movie **“Gladiator”**, Caesar asks his general, **Maximus**, played by **Russell Crowe**, how long he has been away from home serving in the military. Maximus replies, **“Two years, 246 days and this morning”**. He was suffering the hardship of being away from his family in order to serve Rome.,
- C. In **Henry V**, **William Shakespeare** describes the moment when King Henry V of England speaks to his vastly outnumbered troops before the battle of Agincourt. He’s trying to get them to look at things from a different perspective. He stands up and gives this speech:  
**This day is call'd the feast of Crispian. ...  
He that shall live this day, and see old age,  
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours,  
And say 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian.'  
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars,  
And say 'These wounds I had on Crispian's day.' ...  
This story shall the good man teach his son;  
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,  
From this day to the ending of the world,  
But we in it shall be remembered—  
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother ... .**

He's saying: We will glory in the fact that we were here to fight this fight. Those who were not here to fight it with us will curse the day they weren't here to go through this trial. He changes their mindset about how to look at this battle. Paul is saying to Timothy: Embrace that hardship

### **III. THIRD, LIKE SOLDIERS, CHRISTIANS MUST REMEMBER WHO THEY SERVE.**

- A. The newest James Bond movie, "**Quantum Solace**" comes out this month. The James Bond character was created by the British author, **Ian Fleming** in 1953. He wrote 12 Bond novels and two short stories about Bond before he died in 1964. There have been 22 official James Bond movies produced and a couple of unofficial one. At some point in every movie James Bond reveals his motive for his secret service, "**For Queen and Country**".
- B. Paul tells us as Christians we serve "**God and Son**"—v.8 . We must never forget that!

### **CONCLUSION**

- A. By all means lets honor our veteran soldiers today, both past and present.
- B. Let's also look to them as a model for the Christian life and....
  - 1. Be strong like a soldier.
  - 2. Endure hardship like a soldier.
  - 3. Remember who we serve like a soldier.