

Soldiers of Christ Arise

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I. Introduction. (2 Timothy 2:3)

- A. We are to endure hardship as a soldier in Jesus Christ.
- B. Success in the Christian life requires that we have right views of the Christian life.
- C. We cannot allow wrong views to creep into our right views.
 - 1. It is possible to make mistakes that are deadly.
 - 2. False notion: the Christian life is a game to be played.
 - a. It creates a kind of false aura.
 - b. People have fun and think if they lose that they can try again.

II. The Christian life is warfare.

- A. There may be many occupations, but one battle.
- B. There is no peace but in the heart of the Christian.
- C. A Christian is a soldier of the Spirit.
 - 1. You do not win a war if you fight it at ease.
 - 2. The war ought to be taken seriously.
- D. Certain things go out in a war: ease, pleasure, convenience.
- E. Certain things that come in: hardship, deprivation, hard discipline.
 - 1. We are to bear suffering and share hardships as the text says.
 - 2. These are voluntarily assumed for the cross of Christ.
 - a. There has been a weak retreat from the cross of Christ.
 - b. People want to be saved by the cross, but they do not want to accept it for daily living.

III. The retreat from the cross.

- A. Manifestations:

1. Multiplied luxuries.

a. The periods of power in the church correspond with rugged simple living.

2. Convenience.

a. It was not convenient for Christ to do what He did for us.

b. When a soldier goes out, he does not go out for his comfort.

B. Whatever gets between you and your military attitude is harmful to you and the church. (Nehemiah)

1. We ought to take up our cross every day.

2. It is not a matter of better preaching. (Ezekiel)

a. People are too settled down.

b. They are too in love with themselves.

C. We must let truth change us.

1. The poorest preaching is good enough to make the saints.

2. We have become connoisseurs of good preaching, but it does not change us.

IV. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. In what ways does the church appear to be playing games instead of engaging in a war?

2. What place does peace have for the Christian in the midst of the war? How should a battle attitude manifest itself in the Christian?

3. What is your attitude in regards to the war? Are you playing, or are you preparing for battle? What can you do to manifest a proper attitude towards Christian living in your life-one that accepts the cross every day?
