

A PRAYER FOR THE SOLDIERS OF CHRIST

All Christians and especially those who preach, are called to be good soldiers of Christ Jesus (II Tim. 2:3-4). Our warfare is not one with carnal weapons (II Cor. 10:3-4), nor is it with any nation or race of people. It is a spiritual warfare with those who knowingly or unknowingly serve Satan, the great and ancient enemy of Christ and his church. As in all conflicts it is appropriate that prayers be lifted up for those who do battle for the Lord Jesus. Today, one theater of our war is with those within the church who are determined to corrupt her faith, worship and practice by imposing unscriptural changes on them. Will you who read these lines join me in praying:

- * That we will “be strong in the Lord and the strength of his might” (Eph. 6:10).
- * That we will be bold and courageous in the face of a determined enemy (Eph. 6:19-20).
- * That all we who serve in the army of the Master will have “the mind of Christ” (Phil.2:5).
 - * That we will love our enemies and pray for them (Matt. 5:44) because they are our brothers, misguided though they are.
 - * That when we are maligned or slandered we will turn the other cheek (Matt. 5:39), returning good for evil (Rom. 12:14).
 - * That we will admonish them as brothers who hopefully will realize their mistake and change their course (II Thess. 3:15).
 - * That we will be gentle towards all, in meekness correcting them that oppose themselves (II Tim. 2:24-25).
- * That we will not mistake our own preferences and prejudices for the will of Christ. This is a common human weakness and when it occurs brethren are led into conflict over matters that are not true matters of faith.
- * That we will not allow our ignorance in some areas to blind us to some truth discovered by others. We cannot afford to be found fighting against truth, in the name of preserving God’s truth.
- * That we will not refuse to acknowledge our misunderstandings and misapplications of Scripture when it is discovered or pointed out...even when it is our enemy that does so.
- * That we will not mask our personal dislike of a preacher, teacher or school under charges of heresy.
- * That we will never lose sight of Christ’s desire and prayer that his people be one (John 17:20-21). To that end that we will not only contend for the faith (Jude 3), but that we will diligently strive to maintain “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph.4:3).
- * That we will be patient and long-suffering with those who are misled and confused (I Thess. 5:14).
- * That we will have the victory and preserve from further harm that precious church for which our Lord gave his life (Acts 20:28).

May our prayers for the church be offered through Christ, the head, the savior and the mediator of the church.
JHW