

# **FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

Ours is the day of internationalism. For many, patriotism is passe', even an undesirable attitude. The same is true in the church. It is a day of compromise with denominationalism and false doctrine and false teachers. Those patriots of the kingdom of heaven are dismissed with a smug smile as reactionaries and alarmists. Some even despise them and attack them as the enemies of Christ. We who would successfully wage the war for truth against error must be adequately equipped for the battle.

## **Know The Issues**

We must know the issues that demand confrontation. No army will fight valiantly and endure unto victory that does not clearly understand the issues at stake. Our nation made this fatal mistake in Vietnam. Communists clearly understand their reasons for fighting, their goals and objectives. They humiliated the world's most powerful nation.

Thousands of elders and preachers do not yet understand the extent and seriousness of the present day issues confronting the church. They are not concerned to fight against the Postmodernism, liberalism and denominational trends now emerging under the banner of "change." A favorite saying of Paul was, "I would not have you ignorant, brethren." So today we must inform and alert congregation leaders.

## **Know Your Weapon And How To Use It**

Generals know that every soldier must be thoroughly familiar with his weapon. He must know it inside and out. He must understand it and how to use it. So today we must adequately train the soldiers of Christ. The Word of God is our weapon (Ephesians 6:17). We must familiarize ourselves with every book and every verse of it. We must understand each doctrine and precept and how it applies to our faith and lives. As ignorance of his weapon has cost many a soldier his life or freedom in combat, so many a saint has suffered damage to his faith, some even death, because they did not understand the truth of God. (John 8:24)

## **Know Your Enemy**

Where the enemy is easily identifiable, the battle is much easier. Where there is no clear-cut identification of the enemy, espionage, subversion and guerrilla attacks are easy. In Vietnam the enemy seldom wore a uniform. He looked like the ally. Thousands of U.S. troops fell victim to his ambush and sabotage. So today the liberal wears no uniform or badge. He carries a Bible like faithful Christians. He has no intention of leaving our ranks. His mission and goal is restructure and capture of the strategic fortresses. Christian journals, teaching posts in Christian Colleges, production of Bible school literature, pulpits, teaching posts in the local churches are prime targets. Especially do they desire the directorship of Bible classes in college and university evangelistic programs. Preachers and elders must inform themselves not only of issues, but of men and institutions. Distasteful as it might be to some, we must mark them that are causing division, and occasions of stumbling contrary to the doctrine revealed by the apostles. (Romans 16:17) Every man dismissed from his post for unsoundness must be so identified else he will simply infiltrate another outpost and bring more destruction and harm.

## **Know The Terrain Where You Do Battle**

The Viet Cong knew the hills and jungles of Vietnam and thus endured the massive bombing and assault of the U.S. Army. They were invincible because they knew the terrain. So leaders of the church must know the terrain of battle. Where is the enemy? Where are our most vulnerable points? Congregational leaders must acquaint themselves with spiritual conditions of the brotherhood in their region. Some are not even aware of preachers and churches that have apostatized in their own locality. Consequently, false teachers have

established strongholds of subversion and are even now working to capture control of other congregations through their young people and circulation of their propaganda.

### **Combat Training Is Needed**

Many preachers and elders would not know how to resist and defeat the enemy if he appeared openly and challenged them to combat. An untrained, undisciplined army is a worthless army that is sure to lose the battle. Soldiers are subjected to a rigorous program of discipline and training to make them combat ready. No expense or effort is spared. So must the elders train, discipline and equip their flock for the battle ahead. There is a spiritual war in progress. He who denies it is blind, living in fantasy-land. We need lessons and classes restating the first century faith. We need to provide our members with materials that they may study to equip themselves for battle and that they may know the heretics by name! We need to develop spiritual vigor and toughness to accept challenges to our faith and endure the rigors of battle. We must lead them in positive good works of soul-winning, teaching and service that Satan' s warriors may have no foothold to stand on as they attempt to discredit the church and sow discord.

Faith is the victory (I John 5:4). King Jesus is invincible. His church kingdom will not be shaken (Hebrews 12:28). Soldiers of Christ arise, put your armor on. Strong in the faith, stand and do battle. May every enemy of truth go down in utter defeat. JHW