

Quit You Like Men

by

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“*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men.*” (1 Cor. 16:13).

These words are not unique to the apostle Paul, nor for that matter, to the Bible. In many ways and in various forms they have been repeated to soldiers (spiritual and carnal) throughout the pages of history.

The ancient Scot was encouraged to “Stand every man in his place and not flee as a frightened bird” in the face of the enemy.

In our own historical context, the citizen-soldier was urged to “not fire until you see the whites of their eyes”. It took exceptional courage to stand in the face of an enemy bent on one’s destruction.

We owe those old colonists a debt of gratitude for standing their ground with courage; they *quit themselves like men*.

Where does all this lead us? Obviously we, as Christians, are not to fight a carnal war against our enemies. 2 Cor. 10:4, “...*the weapons of our warfare are not carnal...*”.

But Christians DO have a warfare to fight. 1 Tim. 1:18, “*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare*”. Also, note 1 Tim. 6:12, “*Fight the good fight of faith...*”.

Our warfare, as Christians, consists of, “...*(weapons) mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; Casting down imaginations, and every thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*” (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

This is a universal admonition; even the enemies of God use it. As recorded in 1 Sam. 4:9, the Philistines, a wicked, idolatrous people who were at war with Israel, heard a great shout from the Israelite camp (the ark of the covenant had returned to Israel) and, being frightened, were encouraged to, “*Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men and fight.*”

In short, the phrase means all the attributes normally considered to be *manly*.

But what use and to what purpose do the scriptures allot these traits?

We Are At War

2 Tim. 2:3, “*Thou endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*”

We should not be blinded to the fact that war, of whatever sort, is an activity that must be prosecuted with vigor, in order to win. (Who ever fought in a war to lose?) To properly fight a war, one must use the weapons at his disposal to destroy the enemies’ resistance: also to defend himself against the enemies’ attacks.

Prove All Things

1 Thess. 5:21, “*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*” Eph. 5:10, “*Proving what is acceptable to the Lord.*” Rom. 12:2, “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*”

If we attempt to bring our worldly “baggage” with us when we enter the church, we are not *renewing* our minds. How can we then know what is that “good, acceptable, and perfect will of God”?

But, if we discard the preoccupations with the world and all that goes with it, we will have renewed our minds, and are beginning to *prove* all things.

Having done this, we have taken the only offensive (attack) weapon provided by our “captain”. We have no other means to attack our many enemies. But how are we to fight? And what are to be our tactics?

Our Weapons Are Spiritual

Paul tells us “...*to be carnally (fleshly) minded is death...the carnal mind is enmity against God: ...it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*” (Rom. 8:6-7). If we who are spiritually minded attempt to prove all things with a carnal mind, we cannot

possibly succeed: we could never fight a spiritual warfare. “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Rom. 8:8).

We Must Make A Stand

Paul relates how that during a severe trial, all of his companions deserted him; he stood alone in Nero’s (probably) court in defense of himself. 2 Tim. 4:16, “*At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me...*” How many times does it seem that we are standing alone in our lives?

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Paul was undaunted. He knew what so many of us fail to recognize today; that the “Lord with yourself is a majority of two.” 2 Tim. 4:17, “*Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me...and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*” If we are obedient to the Lord’s will in all our activities, He will never abandon us. 2 Tim. 4:18, “*...the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom...*”

It takes courage to take a stand in the face of the disapproval and opposition of others but courage is the first “Christian virtue” that we are told to “add to our faith”. Peter tells us in 2 Pet. 1:5, “*...add to your faith virtue...*”. Virtue in its essence is courage. We should never fail to fight the “good fight” when the necessity is presented to us. To do so would be cowardly.

Too many times, we are presented with challenges aimed at our beliefs and we shy away from our responsibilities of battle. If we are fully armed, both with the “sword of the spirit” and the “whole armor of God”, what have we to fear?

Our weapons will be the subject of another study, complete in itself.

So brethren, let us always “stand each one in his place” when the call comes and not abandon the field to the enemy! In doing so, we will be *quitting ourselves like men*.

In defense of the truth and love of the brethren,
Your brother in Christ,
J.D. Logan

