

Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

Volume XXI

July 2001

Number 12

Registration Schedule Florida School of Preaching Fall Semester Begins August 20, 2001			
Date _____		Phone _____	
Name _____		S.S.# _____	
Address _____			
City _____		State _____	Zip _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check Classes Desired		Please Include \$5.00 Registration Fee	
Hours	Course	Instructor	Credit
Monday 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Romans 21361 Logic 31370	Davis Kenyon	3 3
Tuesday 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Greek 21322 Pentateuch 11364 Eph., Phil., Col., Phile., 11336	Stearsman Blackman Blackman	3 3 2½
Wednesday 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Revelation 21359 Church History 21341	Stearsman Kenyon	3 3
Thursday 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Computers and Churches 31387 1st and 2nd Corinthians 11335 Greek 21322	Stearsman Davidson Kenyon	3 3 2½
Friday 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Denominational Dogmas 11331 1st and 2nd Thessalonians 21337	Blackman Kenyon	3 3
DAILY:			
10:00-1030 Chapel Break 12:-1:00 Lunch 2:30-2:45 Break			

Military Reflections

By
Jackie M. Stearsman

On our recent vacation, we visited the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. We viewed a film presented by the Academy nor the life of its Cadets. Since then I have reflected on what was presented and compared it to the Bible use of military principles to underscore our duties as soldiers of the Christ.

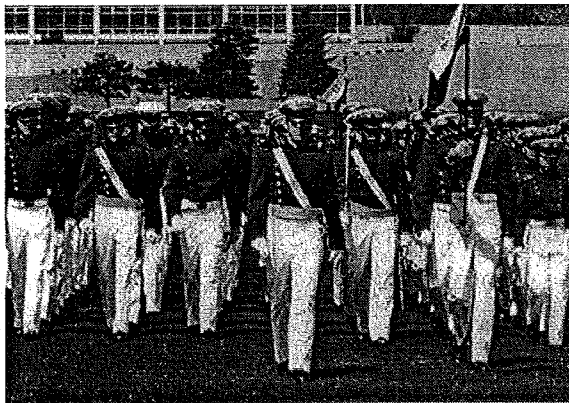
Dedication

In the military training you are taught the need for absolute devotion to the cause. The cause you are committed to must be valued more than any personal interest. One must be willing to die for that cause.

The Bible teaches that we are to be "good soldiers" of Christ. "Thou therefore 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" (2 Tim. 2:3-4). The dedication of the Christian must be to the point of death (Rev. 2:10).

A Christian soldier is not merely there for parades and display. There is a need to stand and withstand. Consider the emphasized words of this familiar passage: "Finally, my brethren, **BE STRONG** in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **STAND** against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **WITHSTAND** in the evil day, and having done all, to **STAND**. **STAND** therefore, having your loins

girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an



ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Eph. 6:10-20).

Trustworthy and Reliable

It was pointed out that the cadets were to have unquestionable integrity. There was an honor code that each cadet must respect, and if I remember correctly it stated the following: "**A CADET DOES NOT LIE, CHEAT OR STEAL, OR TOLERATE THOSE WHO DO.**"

The Bible demands that Christians be models of integrity.

"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another" (Eph. 4:25). And again, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph. 4:28).



IN THE CHURCH, have you known of those who do not present the truth? Have you known of those who take what is not theirs? Have you known those who cheat? Have you known of those who see the church as obligated to serve them, and yet never reach the point in growth that they can give to those who have not? Do you think the church is hindered when we become untrustworthy and unreliable? Have you considered the effect upon those who know us see that we tolerate those who are unreliable?

How effective do you think a military endeavor would be with unreliable personnel?

Combine Skills

In the film on Air Force

The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

Cadets, it was emphasized that the battle was not the work of one individual but by the cooperative skills of the total unit. Each was related to, and dependant upon, the contribution of the other. The success of the endeavor was directly related to the extent that each did his job effectively. The whole air attack can be halted if the engineers refuse to build the landing field. The air attack capabilities can be wrecked if work is "half done."

Bible students will surely recall Paul's comparison of the human body parts to the individual roles of the church. Each was needed and none could be considered as insignificant (1 Cor. 12:12-31; Eph. 4:15-16; Rom. 12:3-8).

There must not be conflicts of interest. Jealousy and selfishness must be put aside. Elders and preachers should have the same goal(s) for themselves and the body of Christ. If there is conflict, someone has forgotten his responsibility. The congregation, elders, preachers, deacons must understand their duty and be diligent at fulfilling it. The work of the Lord can be greatly hindered when a person given responsibility does not fulfill it.

Skills must be developed. Basic training is designed to help one see the whole picture of the military strategy. Officer training is designed to help individuals refine leadership skills. May we grow in the grace and knowledge that we may be effective in the skills we may possess (2 Pet. 3:18).

Communication

For a military unit to be effective it must have accurate communication. It must be willing to receive and understand instruction. An effective way of defeating the enemy is to destroy or confuse communication.

The Bible must be upheld as

the final and ultimate source of communication from our "Commander and Chief." He has given us His life and word, and we must understand and apply it. It can be understood. "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17). Again in the same letter we have these admonitions: "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" (Eph. 3:1-4).

Can you imagine an army going to battle without a central command? Can you imagine the devastation that would come when the soldiers were free to choose whom they wish to follow? Make the application to Denominational directives compared to the directive of the Apostles Doctrine/Doctrine of Christ (Acts 2:42; 2 John 9-11).

How long do you think soldiers would be accepted with only "sincerity," "zeal," and "feelings," human emotion (love) as their ultimate standard of operation?

How successful do you think military ventures would be if the soldiers thought that all they had to direct them were "love letters" without any mandates or patterns to follow?

How successful do you think military causes would be if the goal of the military was to get all the opposing forces to agree to disagree and call it "unity in diversity"?

Is our goal to unite all religious factions into an uncertain mass of religious confusion? In religion alone do people act so

foolishly! May it not be so of us.

Conclusion

May we be dedicated to the Lord, trustworthy and reliable, combine our skills and talents, communicate with one another because we have direction from Him who loved us, died for us, and has given us a path that we must follow. Because we love Him and His cause, as good cadets may we ". . . **NOT LIE, CHEAT OR STEAL, OR TOLERATE THOSE WHO DO.**"

Let us never forget that our "code of honor" is His honor.

"This spake he, signifying by what death he should **GLORIFY GOD**. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me" (John 21:19).

"That ye may with one mind and one mouth **GLORIFY GOD**, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 15:6).

"And that the Gentiles might **GLORIFY GOD** for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name" (Rom. 15:9).

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore **GLORIFY GOD** in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20).

"Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they **GLORIFY GOD** for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men" (2 Cor. 9:13).

"Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, **GLORIFY GOD** in the day of visitation" (1 Pet. 2:12).

"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him **GLORIFY GOD** on this behalf" (1 Pet. 4:16).

Extension Classes, Fall 2001

Evenings, 7:00-9:30

Auburndale, Florida

Meets on Thursday

Local phone (863-967-1757)

Sermon on the Mount 31380 Bob Bauer

High Springs, Florida

Meets on Monday

Local phone (904-454-2930)

Church History 21341 Gene Burgett

Jacksonville, Florida

Meets on Thursday

Local phone (904-771-5075)

Personal Evangelism 11320 Wallace Maxwell

Warner Robins, Georgia

Meets on Tuesday

Local phone (478-922-3056)

Survey of New Testament 21340 Gene Stilwell

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