

~ Pulpit Ponderings ~

November 2011

Shalom to my Brothers and Sisters in Christ - God's grace and peace to you and yours.

Well . . . as I was sitting here in my office here at church and wondering what in the world I was going to “pontificate” upon for the next newsletter, I began to allow my eyes to wander over the several plaques and photos of my past profession (yes, even the one with me and the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders - if you haven't seen that one, come on by!), and eventually, the melody of “*Onward, Christian Soldiers*” began to course through my head. This gave me the notion that, despite trying so hard to transition from my past life to my new role of being a minister, I am still a soldier though I am now wearing clerics and robes rather than camouflage battle dress and boots - armed with a Bible and daily devotional rather than a rifle and side arm. Then the following realization came to mind which I will share with you, especially since we will observe “Veterans’ Day” this month.

I am a soldier in the Army of my God. The Lord Jesus Christ is my commanding officer. The Holy Bible is my code of conduct. Faith, prayer, and the Word are my weapons of warfare. I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity and tested by fire. I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for eternity. I will either retire in this army at the Rapture or die in this army; but I will not get out, sell out, be talked out, or pushed out.

I am faithful, reliable, capable and dependable. If my God needs me, I am there. If He needs me in the Sunday school, to teach the children, work with the youth, help adults or just sit and learn, He can use me because I am there! I am a soldier!

I am not a baby. I do not need to be pampered, petted, primed up, pumped up, picked up or pepped up. I am a soldier!

No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me, or lure me. I am a soldier!

I am not a wimp. I am in place, saluting my King, obeying His orders, praising His name, and building His kingdom! No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards, candy or give me handouts (though I will make an exception on the edibles). I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for, or catered to. I am committed. I cannot have my feelings hurt bad enough to turn me around. I cannot be discouraged enough to turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit. I am a soldier!

When Jesus called me into this army, I had nothing. If I end up with nothing, I will still come out ahead. I will win. My God has and will continue to supply all of my needs. I am more than a conqueror. I will always triumph. I can do all things through Christ. I am a soldier!

Devils cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot weary me. Sickness cannot stop me. Battles cannot beat me. Money cannot buy me. Governments cannot silence me and hell cannot handle me. I am a soldier!

Even death cannot destroy me. For when my commander calls me from this battlefield, He will promote me and then allow me to rule with Him. I am a soldier in the army, and I'm marching claiming victory.

I will not give up. I will not turn around. I am a soldier, marching heaven bound. Here I stand! Will you stand with me?

Now the final thought.

Guess what? If you've accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior you're already enlisted! Question is, which part of the service are you in:

- 1. Active Duty - Serving the Lord faithfully, daily, and on duty 24-7?**
- 2. Reserve Status - Serving only when called upon or twice a year (maybe Christmas and/or Easter?)**
- 3. Guard Status - Backing up the Active Duty group?**

OR

4. AWOL! - Absent without the Lord?

THINK ABOUT IT!!!

“In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me.” Psalm 56:4

His Peace and Blessings to all of you, as you continue to believe, have hope, and do the work of the Lord.

As Always – In His Grip ...

Shalom Aleichem (Peace Be Unto You),

Pastor Buddy

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” – Isaiah 52:7