

# *GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST*

## **Preparing The Troops For Battle**

*Sermon by Ray Reynolds*

II Corinthians 10:1-5

### Introduction:

1. Wars come in many shapes and sizes, many varieties.
2. Every war has different characters, different victors and victims, different reasons, and ended in different ways.
3. It is very important, during a time of war, that we trust our leaders, and hope that they understand what evil they are up against.
4. As Christians we are in a war with Satan.
5. Our text reveals some important information about this spiritual war.

### Discussion:

#### **I. To Prepare For War We Must Understand Our World (vs.1-2)**

- A. Paul was concerned that his accusers thought of him as worldly.
- B. We should rarely be confused with a worldly person.
- C. **Ephesians 2:19** – “*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.*”
- D. In speaking of that hall of fame of faith, the Hebrew writer said, “*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*” (**Hebrews 1:13**)

#### **II. To Prepare For War We Must Understand Our Walk (v.3)**

- A. Paul has a lot to say about our spiritual walk with Christ.
  1. **II Corinthians 5:7** – “*walk by faith, not by sight*”
  2. He tells us to “*walk worthy of the calling*” (**Ephesians 4:1**).
  3. **Colossians 4:5** – “*Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside.*”
- B. What does it take to start a war?
  1. Before there is a war there has to be a threat of war (evil).
  2. There must be good people, who stand up to that threat.
  3. People who hate injustice and tyranny.
  4. People willing to stand together and fight.
  5. Edmond Burke said, “*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*”

#### **III. To Prepare For War We Must Understand Our Weapons (v.4)**

- A. In our spiritual warfare, we have two all-purpose weapons and five defensive pieces of armor (Seven total - **Ephesians 6:11-18**). . . .
  1. The Word of God  
**Psalms 119:11, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-1, Ephesians 6:17**
  2. Prayer  
**Acts 2:42, I Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:16**
  3. Belt of Truth  
**Ephesians 6:14**
  4. Breastplate of Righteousness  
**Ephesians 6:14**

5. Sandals of Peace  
**Ephesians 6:15**
6. Shield of Faith  
**Ephesians 6:16**
7. Helmet of Salvation  
**Ephesians 6:17**

B. A good soldier will train himself to use his weapons properly.

**IV. To Prepare For War We Must Understand Our Warfare (vs.5-6)**

- A. How can we conduct this warfare?
- B. What is our mission and objective?
- C. Our warfare is for the hearts and minds of people
- D. The Bible clearly encourages us to fight. . . .

**I Corinthians 9:26-27, I Timothy 6:12, II Timothy 4:7**

- E. Everyone should be fighting!
- F. Whose side are you on?

Conclusion:

1. Most Christians are barely engaged in this great spiritual battle.
2. Some choose to ignore the battle or watch from the sidelines.
3. But we need warriors, soldiers, and leaders who will take a stand.
4. If you want to be successful in being a warrior for Christ, you need to understand what that means: using your mind, your intelligence, your knowledge of the Word of God, to serve in the Lord's army.
5. Who will join me in this great spiritual battle?