

Morning Lesson

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

Eph. 6:10-18

INTRO:

1. There are some meaningful figures used to describe the Christian life.
 - a. An athlete. **Heb. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 9:24-27**
 - b. A soldier. **Eph. 6:10-13; 2 Tim. 2:3**
2. In war it is important to know three fundamental things.
 - a. The enemy.
 - b. The cause for which one fights.
 - c. The battle equipment and how to use it.

II. THE ENEMY.

- A. Illus: "...with whom we are at war?"
- B. The devil is the Christian's enemy. **1 Pet. 5:8**
 1. He uses deception. **Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 11:3**
 2. My understanding of one of the problems in Vietnam and the Middle East that caused physical danger and emotional breakdown was the inability to identify the enemy. There was no peace because you never knew who was on your side or who might take your life at any given moment.
- C. Christians do not fight against people, but Satan. **Eph. 6:12**
 1. Our presentation of truth and defense of the gospel must not be directed in a negative way toward people, but toward the false teaching of Satan that has gotten them into their current position.
 2. Not suggesting a backing off from an aggressive presentation of truth, but to remind the Christian soldier he is to fight the real enemy while keeping love in his heart for those under the power of that enemy.
 3. Especially applies to an erring brother or sister. **Gal. 6:1**

III. THE CAUSE.

- A. Illus: Nathan Hale -- "I regret I have but one life to give for my country." Here was a man who believed in a cause.
- B. The Christian soldier fights for life -- eternal. **1 Tim. 6:12**
 1. Why so many have endured death rather than renounce Christ.
 2. A Christian does not fear those who can kill the body. **Matt. 10:28**
- C. Christ fought for eternal life -- mine! He is my example in battle. **1 Peter 2:21**