

EKKLESIA #9: "WE SHOULD BE AN ARMY"

Military term used to describe the church for centuries. makes sense considering Paul likened Timothy to a soldier. Terms such as weapons, warfare, battle, and armor are used to describe spiritual conflict. real enemy, real battle lines are drawn, and there is a winning side and a losing side.

THE DOWNSIDE: We can devolve into a group that uses worldly methods to accomplish worldly objectives under the banner of God's purpose **CRUSADES** – bad theology – not greed/viol – confuse God's heavenly kingdom an earthly kingdom

- **Consequences couldn't be more catastrophic: PAYING PRICE TODAY**

THE UPSIDE: We need to be reminded that we aren't disconnected individuals, on our own independent journeys with Jesus, with our own independent missions.

When the church is united around God's mission and is fulfilling it in God's way it is the most powerful group of people on the planet.

- Terminology reminds us together **ON MISSION** – **guards mission drift**

MP: Every local church should be united in the mission that Christ has set before them, bringing to bear all the resources He has provided and exercising them in the way that God has prescribed for the advancement of His kingdom and for His glory.

LIKE AN ARMY WE HAVE A MISSION – 3 ASPECTS GOD'S MISSION

- (1) Overarching God Story – redeeming from fall – **CONNECTED GENESIS REV**
- (2) Individual Mission - working out his purp for r life (**FOCUS**) – **enligh/ME**
- (3) Mission of Local Church – unique outworking of the great commission - **ALL**

Church of Philadelphia

Revelation 3:8 See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. **CHURCH ON MISSION – GREAT COMM**

Matthew 28:18-20 All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*

- o When you pick a church – not seats/technology/parking/service short

What's Mission – Coast G Cruiser seek/save **not** battleship search/dest – **ARMY LIGHT**

COLLECTIVE WITNESS: Blaise Pascal brilliant 17th-cent French mathematician

Men despise religion. They hate it and are afraid it may be true. The cure for this is first to show that religion is not contrary to reason, but worthy of reverence and respect. Next make it attractive, make good men *and women* wish it were true, and then show that it is. Make no mistake, the gospel transforms people but your life attracts them to it.

GOSPEL ADV – church planting/missions trips (Cuba, Mexico, Romania, Brazil)/Awaken Tijuana-Aid/LV Reach Center/veterans outreach/10K bibles/evangelism blitz/Awaken Christian Academy – **PRAY SEND GO**

LIKE AN ARMY WE NEED TO BE TRAINED TO EXECUTE THE OBJECTIVE

Syndicate (John JoJo Wood) – they train UFC fighters – **YOU SIGN UP TO BE TRAINED**

- Strategic/specific/rigorous – not soft/wrong – **EXPECT - SPIRITUAL TRAINING**

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the **work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

- ALL OF US TRAINED – ALL OF US DOING THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

An untrained army will fail in the heat of the battle, every single time.

LIKE AN ARMY WE OPERATE BEST WHEN WE ARE UNITED

THE PICTURE PAUL GIVES – THE UNITED ROMAN ARMY – UNIFIED ON MISSION

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

- Unity is based on gospel truth - Many areas we differ **we can differ/disa/disp**

As Christians, we don't cancel each other because of our differences. If God doesn't cancel us, we shouldn't cancel each other.

- Tactic of adversary - Divide and conquer – **United we stand Divided we fall**

- o **Roots of the REDWOOD – 300 ft / 40 feet diameter (root 6-12'**

LIKE AN ARMY WE HAVE WEAPONS SUFFICIENT FOR THE MISSION

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh.** ⁴For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

- **We do war** – We have weapons – NOT WORDLY – not an earthly kingdom

WHAT ARE OUR WEAPONS???

- Because we are at war - We don't collaborate with the enemy

- o Who is our enemy? The devil – **PEOPLE ARE DECEIVED/TRAPPED**

2 Timothy 2:23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴And a **servant** of the Lord must **not quarrel** but be **gentle** to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in **humility** correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

Considering what God revealed to you this week, choose one way to be more engaged in the mission of Awaken Las Vegas and one spiritual weapon you are going to use more intentionally.