

Young People's Column

Text: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace but a sword." (Matthew 10:34).

These: True Soldiers.

Over in Romans 12:18 we read "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." In numerous places throughout God's word we find similar quotations: "God hath called us to peace" (I. Corinthian 7:15), "Peace be to the brethren" (Ephesians 6:12), "Follow peace with all men" (Hebrews 12:14), "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15).

So God intended that there should be in the heart of every Christian a great sense of peace, and an atmosphere of peace among His children. Nevertheless, in order to maintain our standing before God there comes a time in our experience when we must fight. In fact from the moment this first arrow of conviction pierces our hearts we are engaged in a battle—spiritual warfare—and either God or the devil must win. If we yield to Satan we drift as before. If we surrender ourselves to God the battle continues, the great battle against the world, the flesh and the devil. This is what Jesus meant when he said, "I came not to send peace but a sword."

The soldier wields the sword: And just as the man who enlists in the army becomes a soldier, so are we soldiers in Christ's great army. The true soldier has three outstanding qualities: Strength, Courage and Obedience.

Strength! We think of Sampson, that man of great strength, who rent the lion as he would have rent a kid; who, when the men of Judah bound him with new cords and delivered him into the hands of the Philistines, broke the cords as if they were flax that was burnt with fire; who slew with the jaw bone of an ass a thousand men; who carried away the gates of Gaza.

But Sampson became enticed by the smooth-lipped Delilah into telling of the secret of his strength. Delilah was in league with the Philistines, his enemies. God's enemies, because Sampson was a man of God, a "Nazarite with God."

When Sampson told Delilah all his heart the Spirit of the Lord departed from him and the Philistines overpowered him. Then followed his great travail.

Thus we see how necessary it is that we remain unspotted from the world, for like Sampson, we too shall lose our strength. Sampson regained his strength, yes, but not without great suffering. We as soldiers cannot afford such periods of travail for at such times we cannot be at our best for God, and God wants every man at his best.

He does not ask us to stand alone in our own strength but His precious word tells us that "The Lord will give strength unto his people" (Psalm 29:11).

Courage! The story is told of a young man who became converted in the early fall and that winter went in the lumber woods to work. When he returned home in the spring he met a friend who asked: "Well, what kind of a time did you have this winter?" "Oh, the young man answered: "I had a great time, nobody knew that I was a Christian." What is more indicative of cowardice than this simple answer? What a world of meaning it The wrong orders had been received. The battle had scarce begun when the soldiers realized this, but they knew too that—

conveys. Our young friend may not have sinned in mind or deed all winter, but he must have neglected some of the things most essential in the life of a Christian. He must have omitted to kneel at his bedside and pray morning and night. He must have omitted grace at the table. Ah, yes, our young convert committed the great sin of omission. He was afraid to confess Jesus Christ. And Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before me, him will I confess also before my father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men him will I also deny before my father which is in heaven."

We are living in peculiar times, yet everyone of us have the courage to face a new day not knowing what it may bring forth. How many of us have the moral courage to stand alone among scoffers and say, "I am a Christian, through the blood of Jesus I am made whole?" That is the kind of courage that Jesus wants every follower of His to possess. Not necessarily the courage to face a great army, but the courage of infinitely greater quality. That which will enable us to hear the scorn of the world, of past friends, yes, even of those of our own household. Of father and mother, and sister and brother.

They had said to Joshua back there "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the hand of thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9). Thank God, He is unchanging, and what he could do for Joshua in the days long ago, He can and will do for us today, if our trust is in Him. Praise God forever.

Obedience! Soldiers accept orders without question and carry them out no matter how great the odds against them or die in the attempt. How many of us are willing to die for the cause of Jesus Christ?

We remember the poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade!" It tells how the noble six hundred, as they were called, received their order, and went out to meet the enemy.

There's not to make reply,

There's not to reason why,

There's but to do or die—

So they fought a good fight, and then—

Then they rode back.

But not the six hundred.

If the natural man can carry out the orders of the human, even at such great cost, how much more should we who are spiritual obey our heavenly Father's command. Great generals sometimes make mistakes when giving orders, but God never makes a mistake. He knows every command that he has given. He knows every man who is carrying them out. The army standard may be summed up in the three lines:

There's not to make reply,

There's not to reason why,

There's but to do or die.

God's standard coincides plus our wills to obey. Obedience is "better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22); the price of success, "do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:8); and best of all it secures our entrance into God's kingdom. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven (Matthew 7:21).

Many soldiers obey official commands much against their wills, for example, during the Great War young men were conscripted

by the thousands, sent over there and forced to fight for their country. The battle we are engaged in today is of far greater importance than that of nation against nation. We are fighting to maintain our own spirituality, and for the salvation of other souls. In this great battle as in every other, there arises a need for soldiers. God is looking for soldiers. God wants soldiers, but in spite of the great longing in his big heart for such, God will not conscript any boy or girl, any man or woman. He wants us to willingly surrender ourselves into his keeping.

We have the promise of strength and strength renewed, "For they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31) and reward for courage and obedience. Why not stand out on the promise of God and be true soldiers?

P. CHAPMAN

OBITUARY

Died at Woodard's Cove, Grand Manan, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Flagg, aged 2 years. Funeral service held in Advent Church conducted by Rev. F. A. Dunlop. The body was buried in the Woodard's Cove cemetery.

F. A. DUNLOP

Mrs. William Grant

Mrs. William Grant passed away at her home on the Rockland Road last Thursday following an acute attack of heart trouble. Deceased was sixty years of age and had suffered a long illness during the past winter, but had recently been much improved in health. She was a daughter of the late James and Rebecca McClarey and was born at Tracey Station. She was twice married, her first husband, Addington Bradley, died several years ago, and of the union six children survive, Winston Bradley, of Presque Isle, Me., Mrs. Warren White, of Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Benjamin Brown, of Rockland, Mrs. Kenneth Gleason, of Simonds, Mrs. Arnold Hallett, of Rockland Road, and Jennie, in the States. Another son, Herbert Bradley, made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War. Later she married William Grant, who survives her. Among a large number of surviving relatives are four sisters, Mrs. Arthur Hovey, of Hartland, Mrs. Ella Saunders, of Perth, Mrs. Wentworth Dow, of Lower Brighton, and Mrs. Gertrude Saunders, of Hartland; another sister, the late Mrs. Jane Day, passed away only two weeks previous.

Funeral services were held on Thursday afternoon at the home and the Reformed Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. H. S. Dow, assisted by Rev. Hedley Bragdon and Rev. A. W. Brooks. Hymns rendered by the choir were: "Will the Circle be Unbroken," "Beautiful Beckoning Hands," and "Rock of Ages." The floral tokens were silent testimonies of the esteem in which the deceased was held by a large circle of relatives and friends who will long remember her kindness and sympathy toward all those with whom she came in contact. The pallbearers were Arnold Hallett, Benjamin Brown, Fred Saunders and Kenneth Gibson. Interment was in Greenwood.—Hartland Observer.

One thing I have made up my mind to: whether I find present joy or present sorrow, present commendation or present censure, I will be faithful to my Lord.—Spurgeon.