

## SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

By C.W. Wood

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There is being a mighty army raised up on the earth and its commanding general is Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Although this army is living in flesh bodies, they do not make war after the fleshly way of fighting. II Cor. 10:3-4, **“For though they walk in flesh they do not war after the flesh. The weapons of their warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”** This army has been Born-Again into the Kingdom of God. They are Holy Ghost filled. The Spirit of their Commander lives also in them, therefore, they are one with Him and they hear His voice. John 15:5, **“I am the vine ye are the branches...”** The tree and the branches are the same life.

This army is called in the scripture, **“Kings and priests unto God and shall reign on the earth.”** (Rev. 5:10) They have been given the Keys to the Kingdom (Matt. 16:17), and **“Whatever they bind on Earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatsoever they loose on Earth shall be loosed in Heaven.”** This is the mighty power given to this army by their commanding general. The orders they give to the enemy, as they are led by His Spirit, are backed up in Heaven, because their voice is only an echo of His voice! John 15:7, **“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”**

They are dressed in uniforms fashioned on the looms of Heaven: robes that are so

dazzling white that the host of Hell tremble and shake at their very appearance! We speak of **“The Robe of Righteousness”**, which is **“The gift of righteousness”** as seen in Rom. 5:17, **“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one (Adam), much more they which receive abundance of grace, and of **“The Gift of Righteousness” shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.**”**

According to Scripture, these individuals are reckoned by God to be as righteous as He, Himself! What a statement this is, and no man would dare to say such a thing that is unless he had God’s own Word for it! Even then, we tremble as we quote Him! II Cor. 5:21, **“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin (God has made Jesus to be sin for us and Jesus knew no sin), that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”**

Can we comprehend such a thing? Can we find it in our heart to accept such a powerful, *soul-saving gift*? Do we dare to buckle on this **“Breastplate of Righteousness?”** (Eph. 6:14)

The natural mind is so concerned with the failures of the flesh-man that it cannot receive such an impossible sounding

promise! Therefore, God has declared that we must be **“transformed (changed) by the renewing of our mind.”** (Rom. 12:1-2) This changing of your mind starts with a justification experience, where we have truly repented and turned from our sins. We must know God has wiped out our every sin. After this experience, the mind has been somewhat changed. We can see that our Creator is asking us to turn our whole being over to Him. If we will, in all honesty, do so, and promise to serve Him the rest of our days, then He will send His Holy Spirit to live in us. He is the Teacher and will then lead us into **“All truth”** (John 16:13)

The Army of which I speak has been brought through these three steps, and by them they have a renewed mind, so that they have taken hold of God’s free **“Gift of Righteousness”** and there is **“Therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”** (Rom. 8:1) They are of the group mentioned in the scriptures as having been **“made accepted in the Beloved.”** (Eph. 1:6) They are **“Holy and without blame before Him in love.”** (Eph. 1:4) They are

blessed beyond man's ability to understand it or describe it because *the Lord will not charge sin unto them.* Rom. 4:8, **"Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not charge sin."** Rom. 8:33, **"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's Elect? It is God that justifieth! Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died.....** (To pay our sin-debt in *full* past, present and future.)

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God. (Rom. 5:1). This peace amounts to **"No condemnation."** (Rom. 8:1) Memory looks back at past sins, and conscience is aware of present sins (though we strive against them, we still have them). We are filled with sorrow because of our failures, but praises rise from our hearts at the same time for we know by His Holy Word that our sins are not being charged against us!

There is only one way to ever know this and that is by faith. Our emotions will deny it and so will our walk seem to disprove it, but the word of God is unchangeable and He has declared it so, therefore it is forever true.

We walk every moment with repentant hearts and are washed moment by moment as we have need! "Who shall lay anything to God's Elect Army?" Not God, for He has justified us! Not Christ, for He has died in our place and is risen again! My faith lives not because I am not a sinner, but rather because I am a sinner for whom Jesus died. My trust is not that I am holy in my flesh, but being unholy, He became my Righteousness! We do not trust in what we are in our flesh, nor in what we ever shall be in this flesh, nor in what we

feel, but in what Jesus Christ is! It is one of the first revelations that we receive, that our God is just and cannot be otherwise! We know it is so, and we hold to it. Therefore, He will not demand double payment for a debt that is already paid. God must change His nature before He could do so, but He changes not (Mal. 3:6).

Our duty, as members of God's End-time Army, is to confess that we are **"nothing else but sin"** for no confession short of this is the whole truth. If the Holy Spirit is in us, convicting us of sin, we will have no problem confessing the same. It will come spontaneously from our lips! But what comfort there is in the scriptures for we who are under a deep sense of sin. Sin that is hated and confessed will never shut us away from our God. *"Whosoever comes to Him, He will in no wise cast out."* (John 6:37) Though as dishonest as the thief, though as unchaste as the woman caught in adultery, though as wrong as Saul of Tarsus, though as rebellious as the Prodigal Son, and as unfaithful as Peter who denied Him, the Great Heart of God will look on the truly repentant and call him clean when he trusts in Jesus crucified.

God's great army (I use the word "great" not numerically, but in the sense of spiritual power) is now climbing over the great barrier that stands between them and *no condemnation*. In times past, our hopes have been fastened to our emotions. When we felt so high, so Heavenly-minded, so close to our God, so caught up above earthly things, then we thought ourselves to be accepted by God. But on days when our souls were cast into the dust, we had some very real

doubts that we were still accepted! We must see that all our good feelings do not exalt us in God's eyes, and that all our times of spiritual dryness do not take away from our standing before Him. The unchanging God looks to see if we still embrace His Cross! Is our faith anchored to the fact of His Perfect Life and His following Perfect Sacrifice? He accepts us as we cling to His Righteousness that He has mercifully credited to our account. This "clinging" is simply to read His promises and believe what He said. To be sure, our sins trouble us, but He has cast them behind Him. We look at ourselves and conclude, "There is nothing acceptable here!" but look away unto Jesus and see if everything is not acceptable there! We do have to fight with corruption in our flesh. We do wrestle with temptations, but we are already **"accepted in the Beloved."** (Eph. 1:6)

An old song comes to mind, as I think of the Army God has raised up, one I sang in Sunday School as a small boy. It is called:

## ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before!  
Christ, the royal Master  
(General),  
Leads against the foe:  
Forward into battle,  
See His banner go!

At the sign of triumph  
Satan's host does flee:

On, then, Christian soldiers,  
On to victory!

Hell's foundations quiver  
At the shout of praise;  
Brothers, lift your voices,  
Loud your anthems raise!

Like a mighty army  
Moves the church (Bride) of  
God:  
Brothers, we are treading  
Where the saints have trod:  
We are not divided:

All one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine,  
One in charity.

Onward, then ye people  
(Bride),  
Join our happy throng,  
Blend with ours your voices  
In the triumph song:  
Glory, laud, and honor,  
Unto Christ the King:  
This thro' countless ages  
Men and angels sing.

Psalms 138:5 declares, **“They shall sing in the ways of the Lord!”** How this writer remembers the night I first began to sing in the ways of the Lord. I had just lost my terrible burden of sin. It was laid at the foot of the Cross.

Do you, dear reader, remember when your fetters fell off? Do you remember the place and the time when Jesus met you and said, **“I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have blotted out as a cloud your transgressions, and as a thick cloud thy sins; they shall not be mentioned against thee anymore forever.”** (Isa. 44:22) John Bunyan describes it by

saying, “When poor Pilgrim lost his burden at the Cross, he gave three great leaps, and went on his way singing!”

But it is not only at the start of our Christian life that we have reason for song. Now, as the days of God's Grace are turning toward judgment, and we realize that our warfare is coming to an end, we are quickened into a place of expectancy that we have never before experienced! Our gaze is directed toward the Eastern Sky, and our ears are listening intently for the sound of a Voice calling, “Come up hither.” Church Natural, the church without the oil, cannot understand how we can rejoice that all our sins are gone because of Jesus! Their works and prayers, ceremonies and programs give them very little faith and comfort, and they should be uneasy as they look to things other than the Blood of Christ. We must all sit down and behold the Justice of God and see that He is duty-bound to punish sin. Then we must go to His Word and see that this punishment was all executed upon our Lord Jesus Christ, who had planned to die in our stead!

How vain it is to trust in good feelings or bad ones! This is a habit the enemy teaches. The only balm for a guilty conscience is the sight of Jesus Christ hanging on the Cross, torn and bleeding out His life's blood for us. It is to hear Him say with His last breath, **“It is finished.”**

For the next little while we are engaged in a great war with the enemies of God. We must use every weapon within our reach. God's army has taken hold of the whole armor of God. Their loins are girt about with the Truths of the Last Day Message, as

revealed by Christ, Himself, to the Prophet William Branham.

The Revelation of the Seven Seals has returned us to the Faith of the Fathers. Once again God's Army has on the *Breastplate of Righteousness* (Eph. 6:13-17). Their feet shod with the *preparation of Peace*, having great desire to share the life-giving manna. They hold up before them the shield of faith, which has been fashioned by the Word of God. The fiery darts (lies) of the wicked cannot penetrate it. They have on the *Helmet of Salvation*; they know the One who's Blood has washed them clean. Their Salvation is not in question! Last but not least, they have learned the power that lays in the Word of God and they use it as a sharp, two-edged sword. They go forth with the words; **“It is written”** resounding from their lips. Devils scatter as they name the name of their commanding general! They have been well trained in the Holy Ghost Training School and they have now taken over the land for their leader. He is at this moment finishing up the plan He made before Creation!

Soon and very soon, His Army will be taken out, making way for the Gospel to return to the Jews. Then will the two witnesses of Rev. 11:3 appear and preach in Jerusalem for three and one half years. At the end of their ministry the Battle of Armageddon will be won by Christ and His returning Army. (Rev. 19:14-18)

But, as we have said, for the moment we are engaged in a great battle of the mind against the Philistines of evil. But we may comfort ourselves with this God-sent thought, **“I have**

**chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.”** (Isa. 48:10) Yes, afflictions will come, but His words fall on our ears as a shower of soft rain on parched ground, “He has chosen us!” Let sickness come, He has chosen us, and will deliver us from them all (Ps. 34:19). If poverty comes in our door, He is already in our house, for He has chosen us! Family and friends may forsake us in our beliefs, but He has chosen us! The Cross is the Devil’s answer! Having been made “perfect” by our faith in the Life that was sacrificed there, we have complete victory while living in the middle of our sin-pile of flesh. We believe God and

it is **“counted unto us for righteousness.”** (Rom. 4:5) As we reason about our predicament it seems to us we could glorify God more in this present life if our sinful nature had been removed from us at our redemption. Yet, if this had been God’s will, He would have done so when he regenerated us! No Devil, nor man, stops God’s plan! He, Himself, has subjected us to vanity for reasons of His own (Rom. 8:20). He made a law of faith and by it, and it alone, we are saved! His great plan included His own death on the Cross, paying for our every sin, and we who cannot keep His holy law perfectly can have Perfect

Faith in what He did! Yes, this army has Perfect Faith “in God” (but none in their flesh).

QUOTE: PERFECT FAITH, PAGE 33, “.....waiting for that church to come into that Perfect Raptured Faith. ....I am looking for it.....together we’ll make it by the grace of God.” Amen.

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