

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

Gary McDade

The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. It is the offensive weapon in the list of Christian armor in Ephesians 6:10-18. It is a sharp two-edged sword. It is capable of dividing asunder soul and spirit and joints and marrow. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb. 4:12). It is the word of Christ (Col. 3:16). When from the Isle of Patmos John saw Jesus Christ he fell down at his feet as dead (Rev. 1:17). What did Jesus look like? “And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength” (Rev. 1:13-16).

The word of God is living, active, and powerful (Heb. 4:12). It will not return to God void but will accomplish his purposes (Isa. 55:8-11). It will be the standard in the judgment (Jn. 12:48-49; Rev. 20:12). It is not the word of men but of the living God (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16). It will remain when the world is on fire! (Mt. 24:35).

People are very careful around cutlery. I have known several people who have lost digits in cutlery accidents. The blade is sharp and the steel is unforgiving. The sword of the Spirit has no sheath to protect the guilty from its edge. The sword of the Spirit is not carried about in a scabbard but wielded openly. It is not a surgeon’s scalpel with its razor edge directed by nimble fingers nor a battle axe with imprecise strokes of brute force. The sword of the Spirit has the power to cut sin out of the hearts and lives of men and women (Acts 2:37, NKJV) and point them to heaven (Psa. 73:24).

The Conquering Christ

The closing words of the Bible picture the conquering Christ. It would do the church well today to be reminded that Jesus Christ has never relinquished his position as Captain of the Lord’s host. The cruel, raging battle between the Savior and Satan will come down to the end of the world. Among the final scenes of the world’s existence will be the descent of Jesus Christ from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and have not obeyed the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt. 16:27; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). If we anticipate standing with him in victory over his foes at the last day, we must put on the whole armor of God today! Look at Jesus Christ

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through the prophetic eyes of the apostle John as he saw him from Patmos. “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Rev. 19:11-16).
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