
Words of Truth

The Battlefield Medic

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Imagine for a moment that you are a medic in the military. Imagine that you are deployed at wartime. You are in a unit that is surrounded by enemy combatants. You were in a small unit to begin with, but casualties abound. You find yourself having not only to deal with the enemy in a combat situation, but trying also to balance your duties as a medic. You are literally troubled on every side.

As the battle progresses you find that your comrades continue to fall as the enemy advances on your position. Your fellow soldiers continue to battle, but now you are perplexed on what to do with your fellow injured soldiers. You have two tags to label injured soldiers. The red tag means they should be worked on. The black tag means that they are hopeless and should be left to die. How do you feel right now with what you are imagining? Would you want the decision of who lives and dies left solely up to you?

You Are In A Battle

Notice what the Scriptures say about us being in a spiritual battle: *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ... Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places... This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare... Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, where unto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses”* (II Corinthians 10:3-5, Ephesians 6:10-12, I Timothy 1:18, I Timothy 6:12).

The fact that we are in a battle is clear based on what we just read. God has armed us for this battle we are in (Ephesians 6:13-18). What we need to understand next is that we are not just bystanders.

You Are A Soldier

Notice what the Bible says about us being soldiers: *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou*

therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (II Timothy 2:1-4).

As soldiers in the Lord’s spiritual army, we are like the medic we began this article imagining ourselves to be. We are in a small unit (Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 22:14, and Luke 13:23-24). We are surrounded by the enemy, as the whole world is evil walking in the ways of their god (Galatians 1:4, Ephesians 2:2, and I John 5:19). Like Paul, we often find ourselves troubled on every side (II Corinthians 4:8 and II Corinthians 7:5). Like the medic we began this article imagining ourselves to be, we have fallen brethren around us (cf. Luke 8:13). Unlike the medic though, we are not just deciding whom of our brethren to help, but we are also involved in crossing enemy lines to decide which of the opposing army are possible to save.

You Have To Make Decisions Similar To A Combat Medic

Notice what Paul told Timothy: *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will”* (II Timothy 2:24-26). As Christians we have the working of saving those who are caught in the trap of sin. That includes both erring brethren (Acts 8:13-24 and James 5:19-20) and those of the world (Romans 16:25-26).

What we have most in common with a combat medic is that, we have to choose whom we spend our time trying to save the lives of. We have to discern those who are willing to learn from those whom are not (Matthew 7:6, Matthew 10:14, Acts 13:44-51, Acts 17:16-33, Acts 18:1-6, I Corinthians 3:1-3, and Titus 3:9-11). Thus, when we see that someone is not willing to learn we black tag them (so to speak). We shake the dust and move on.

Now here’s where what we do is FAR different from that of the combat medic. When you and I decide to black tag a person, they will not just die in the flesh. When we decide to stop trying to teach someone, that person is going to be eternally damned (Mark 16:15-16 and II Thessalonians 2:12). People whom do not obey the Gospel of Christ are going to face God’s vengeance (II Thessalonians 1:7-9). Frankly stated, they’ll spend eternity in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).

Conclusion

Earlier in this article we asked ourselves how we’d like to be the one with the decision of who lives and who dies. The truth is, that question is mild considering where each of us are when we handle the word of God. You are I are an intricate part of who will and will not be saved. Like it or not, these decisions are left to us as are the consequences for others, but also for ourselves (Acts 20:26-27). While it takes a seeker to find the truth (Isaiah 55:6), there also needs to be someone to teach it when that person comes seeking. Whether that person learns by your teaching or your conduct (I Thessalonians 2:1-12), you will red tag or black tag people often. Choose wisely for their sakes and for yours!