

## THE CHURCH: A BOOT-CAMP FOR THE BATTLE

062820P

### INTRODUCTION

1. Is "boot-camp" a legitimate metaphor for the church? Military metaphor. 2T 2:3-4 soldier, athlete, farmer - told to reflect on these 3 metaphors
2. Church Militant: Alexander Whyte [preface Bunyan's *Holy War*]. Enmity tw/ the two seeds [Gn 3:15].
3. Warn against use of unbiblical metaphors. Hospital? 1T 1:18-19 & 2T 4:7 *fight the good fight* = inclusio
4. Church as boot-camp where we are given basic training in gospel love as *sons of God Most Hi* & *peacemakers*. 2 tasks in Rev: worship & witness.

### 1st: In Our Worship, We Rehearse and Experience the Gospel

1. Draw near - experience gospel - Regulative Principle: Review our "Order of Worship" for AM & PM worship on Lord's Day.
2. Christ is present [IIIrd commandment]. Hb 12 by faith; 12:18-29. NCov worship is not less serious but elevated into heart realities: *better*. We have access [Eph 2:18].
  - i. We worship on the brink of Final Judgment - cosmic shaking [Hag 2:6; Isa 30:27-30] - earthquake = motive in Rev for Final Judgment.
  - ii. Worship is essential to *sanctification* - v14. *pursue peace w/ all men* = peace-makers! Context of personal peacemaking is corporate worship.

### 2nd: We Experience the Gospel in our Fellowship & Witness By Our Lives

1. My thesis: what we experience in worship is transforming & how we relate to each other in church is transferred into our relationships w/ all men.
2. Doctrine issues into practice - Rm

- i. 12:1-8 wld you "find your spiritual gift? See a need & meet it.
  - ii. v9-13 bro'ly love - community life
  - iii. v14-21 - spiritual warfare - called to love in context of wrath.
  - iv. 13:1-7 - take your place - a life of order = love
  - v. 13:8-10 - obedience to Law = love
  - vi. 13:11-14 - worship & witness *knowing the time* - 2nd coming is near. Chpt 14-15 - church invited to participate in mission to Gentiles; chpt 16 personal greetings & benediction in hope of glory of God.
  - vii. The life of faith is a life of worship & witness.
3. Doctrine issues into practice - Eph
- i. 4:1-3 preserve unity - *speaking truth in love* [v15]; *building in love* [v16]
  - ii. Transformed minds - v17-24 as new men in Christ
  - iii. v25-5:2 - v3-4 [IXth]; VIth]; VIIth; Xth] - speech - 4:32-5:2
  - iv. 5:3-17 beware of enticement - you will be resurrected [v14] live wisely
  - v. 5:18-20 worship; v21 -submit God-constituted authority; v22-33 marriage; 6:1-4 children & parents; 6:5-9 employees & employers
  - vi. v10ff - spiritual warfare on battlefield - benediction: v23-24

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4. Church is community of love - skills for living on battlefield. Orderly life; spiritual warfare against principalities & opposition: *enmity* of 2 seeds.

5. Worship & witness are integrally interconnected - worship determines our witness & our witness is to the Lord we worship.

i. Church as boot-camp for overcomers: lions who fight like lambs.

ii. Life of faith in Jesus who transforms & empowers us  
- A 4:13.