

# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* (2 Timothy 3:16)

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## HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

Many people will say, "I know that I am saved", or "I know that I have eternal life." You probably have heard some who have made such statements. I would like to ask any person who says "I know I am saved" or "I know I have eternal life" this question: **How do you know?**

1. **You cannot know by your "feelings"**. Joseph's brothers sold him to a company of Israelites and they took Joseph's coat of many colors and dipped it in animal blood and when Jacob saw it he felt like Joseph was dead. His "feelings" caused him to mourn many days although Joseph was not dead. (See Gen. 37:23-35)

While Saul of Tarsus was persecuting Christ by persecuting Christians he felt like he was doing God service. (See Acts 8:3; 9:1-5; 22:4-5; 22:19-20; Gal. 1:13; 1:23, etc.) Later he said: "I verily thought within myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem..." (See Acts 26:9-11).

2. **You cannot know by your**

**"good conscience."** While guilty of the above mentioned things, Paul said: "...I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." (Acts 23:1).

3. **You cannot know by the doctrines and commandments of men.** Jesus said: "...But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:7-9).

4. **You cannot know by the testimony of a "pope", cardinal, priest, bishop, preacher, etc.** None of these is the Saviour and none of them have the right to try to set a "standard" by which you can be saved.

5. **You can know that you are saved and have eternal life in hope by what is written in the Scriptures!** 1 John 5:13 says: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (See Rom. 10:17). To be saved we must learn, believe & obey the gospel! (See Mk. 16: 15-16; Acts 2:38; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Jas. 2:12; 1 Jno. 2:3-4) (CRS)

## HE INSTRUCTOR

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### *Editorial...*

#### **"A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST"**

(2 Tim. 2:3) (Concluded)

Last month we began a study of being a "**Good Soldier of Jesus Christ**". Let now resume that study be giving some more facts and traits about being *a good soldier of Christ*.

#### VI. A GOOD SOLDIER ENDURES HARDNESS.

In our text Paul exhorted Timothy saying: "**Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**" To "**endure hardness**" means to endure difficulties or suffer hardships. Consider the following passages.

---2 Tim. 2:9- "**Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.**"

---2 Tim. 4:5- "**...endure afflictions...**"

---2 Tim. 3:12- "**Yea, and all that**

**will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions."**

---2 Tim. 1:8- "**...but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God."**

---1 Pet. 4:16- "**Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.**"

---See James 5:10; 2 Cor. 11:23-28; 1 Pet. 4:13-15, etc.

#### VII. A GOOD SOLDIER FIGHTS!

A. There are many who claim to be Christians who are too timid to stand for truth and righteousness. They lack moral courage! They are cowards! In the heat of battle cowards will refuse to fight. They will run! A good soldier does not run, but he fights!

B. In 1 Tim. 6:12 Paul admonished Timothy to: "**Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou are also called...**"

C. Cowardice or timidity should not be a part of our lives because Paul declared: "**For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**" (2 Tim. 1:7)

Those who are cowards (too timid to stand up and fight spiritually) are the "*fearful*" of Rev. 21:8 who (along with others) "**shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**"

#### VIII. A GOOD SOLDIER FIGHTS A GOOD FIGHT!

A. Remember Paul urged Timothy to "**Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,**

**whereunto thou art also called...**"  
(1 Tim. 6: 12)

We should be aggressive in our actions as soldiers. There are "**strong holds**" that we should pull down. There are "**imaginations**" and many "**high thing** [s] **that exalteth itself** [themselves] **against the knowledge of God**" that should be cast down and "**every thought**" should be brought into captivity "**to the obedience of Christ.**" (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

After having fought many battles for truth, righteousness, holiness, etc., as the apostle Paul was approaching the end of his life here on earth, he could say with confidence: "**For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.**" NOTE: It is not enough just to fight. We must fight a *good fight* of faith!

#### IX. A GOOD SOLDIER HOLDS FAITH AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

A. In 1 Tim. 1:18-20 Paul said: "**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; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.**"

NOTE: Timothy was to war a good warfare and as he did so he was to hold (or keep) faith and a good conscience. It is certainly possible for one to make shipwreck of his faith as did Hyme-

naeus and Alexander. They were turned over to the devil that they might learn not to blaspheme.

B. Those who are good soldiers are those who have been justified by faith that they received by hearing the word of God. (See Romans 5:1; 10:8, 17). They are to hold faith that they may fight a good fight! Observe also the fact that the "**the just shall live by faith**" (Rom. 1:17). Also keep in mind that "**we walk by faith, not by sight**" (2 Cor. 5:7). A person will not be able to "**hold faith and a good conscience**" and thus be a good soldier unless he has a "**faith which worketh by love**" (Gal. 5:6).

#### X. A GOOD SOLDIER PRAYS ALWAYS!

In Eph. 6:18-20 Paul admonished brethren, saying: "**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**"

In Luke 18:1 Jesus "**spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.**"

In 1 Tim. 2:8 Paul said to Timothy: "**I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.**"

To be a good soldier in the Lord's "army" a Christian must not only be a praying sol-

dier, but he must be persistent in his praying. He is to "**continue in prayer**" (Col. 4:2) and "**pray without ceasing.**" (1 Thess. 5:17).

**XI. A GOOD SOLDIER WILL RECEIVE A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

As the battle scarred soldier of the cross, the apostle Paul came near to the end of his life on earth, he could confidently say: "**For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**" (2 Tim. 4:6-8). NOTE: He was not mere-

ly ready to die, but *he was ready to be offered!* He had not only fought a fight, but *he had fought a good fight!* He had finished the course that God had laid out for him! *He had kept the faith!*

Because of these things *a crown of righteousness had been laid up for him* and for all others who acted as did he because they loved his appearing.

Are you a good soldier of Jesus Christ? If you are not, you ought to resolve today that you will become one by following His Word. (CRS)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**  
 AT EAST ALBERTVILLE - May 9-15, 2011 - 7 pm daily except regular times on Lord's Day - Different Speakers! Make plans to be with us! Tell Others!

Bound Volumes (2000 - 2008) still available. LIVE SERMONS over internet each Lord's Day! Go to <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com> to tune in each Lord's Day at 10:30 am and 6 pm.

**SENTENCE SERMONS**

We should be very much interested in where we stand, and in what direction we are going.  
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You cannot "get even" with a person without putting yourself on his *level*.  
 \* \* \* \* \*

A person should not consult his "bank account" to determine his real worth!  
 \* \* \* \* \*

Nothing should be "legally right" that is "morally wrong!"  
 \* \* \* \* \*

"...Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." ---Paul (Gal. 6:7).

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