

## We're Marching To Zion

Where are you going? No, not this afternoon, nor tomorrow. We are not talking destinations here, but destiny. Where are you going? For the Christian, the answer would appear to already have been answered. Yet is it?

Many Christians want to go to heaven . . . some day. Many want to go to heaven IF they are good enough. Still many more HOPE they are going to heaven.

One song in our song book asks the question, "Am I a soldier of the cross?" Well, are you?

What about soldiers in the U.S. military? Are they not trained to be "lean-mean-fighting-machines?" Do they not endure hours of grueling exercises every day to develop skills preparing themselves for battle? Why is it the case when military personnel are interviewed by the press that you hear a clearly defined willingness to go to the battle, especially when they know the ultimate price may have to be paid? A soldier is trained to be assured of his capabilities to fulfill his charge. Are not Christian soldiers to be equally convicted of their future?

Christians soldiers fight! They fight against the devil. His fiery darts, 1 Peter 5:8, are constantly aimed. During a recent advertisement for an upcoming movie, a scene showed where ancient warriors engaged in battle, looked up to see the sky blackened with thousands of arrows as they were descending in their direction. Satan's army does this daily to the Christian! With every "dart" is the potential to destroy the Christian. This is why so many soldiers of Christ perish along the journey. But the soldier is ready to fight, and believes that with the weapons of their warfare, Ephesians 6, they will overcome. Paul said, "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds," 2 Corinthians 10:4.

Christians soldiers are marching to Zion! Visualize the prepared and trained soldier marching alongside his comrades-at-arms pressing ever closer to the battle. Bravery and commitment are their constant companions. A glance out the corner of their eye is not in search for a quick exit, but anticipating the enemy's next move, to be ready to defend their charge.

A marching Christian soldier will never doubt his weapons. And if properly trained he will not doubt his preparedness. Why would a Christian doubt his readiness for heaven? If he is a true soldier of Christ, he believes his weapons are capable of saving him, those weapons being the "sword of the spirit," the "breastplate of righteousness," etc. He knows his God is his defender, that even if he perishes physically he has the promise that he will still win the war, note Revelation 2:10.

Yet Christians often doubt! Have I done enough? Am I good enough? Am I faithful enough? Do I know enough? NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You are not good enough, faithful enough, know enough, or are strong enough. No one ever has been, nor will be. The road to Zion is not paved with perfect people. It is paved with perfectly saved people. This is what makes fighting for Christ different from fighting for the U.S. Army. Uncle Sam is a concept, a thought, an ideal of

freedom, but the Lord is GOD! In Christ, the soldier knows he can not fight battles with his own strength, but with the strength of the Lord. If we do not learn anything from the battles Israel entered in the Old Testament, we must see that when God was fighting for Israel, they always won. (Remember Gideon?!) The battle belongs to the Lord, ALWAYS!

Such does not excuse a poorly prepared soldier, it enhances it. A Christian, a true soldier of Christ wants to be ready. He wants to focus, to be sober, to be vigilant, to be prepared, 1 Peter 3:15.

“We’re marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.”

—Scott