

## VI.5. Lambs to Rams: The Church: Militant, Victorious & Glorified

Militant: Camp- Gk.3925- *battle array, encampment or barracks. (Rev 20:9)*

What can we do as Christians to prepare for the future as secularism and false doctrine attempt to infiltrate the Christian faith in order to become the norm in religion? How do we keep the world outside from entering the Lord's church? Answer: We "put on the whole armour of God" (*Eph 6*) and everything we do we are to **do boldly** as if the true identity of the church depends on it, which it does! If we are complacent in this, the church that we end up with will not be recognized in the Bible. The following should help us in our goal to be victorious.

- **Study Boldly!**

There will be many opportunities, if we look for them, where people will question the authority of the Bible so we need to be able to answer them by asking "If I showed you what the Bible says about it (*whatever the subject may be*) would it make a difference?" That's how we weed out those who are just looking to toot their own horns through bluffing their way through Bible discussions. But if they **do** say "show me" we need to have been boldly studied up on some of the most simple, basic teachings of God's word. The O.T. Jews that didn't believe the report of Joshua and Caleb suffered for their unbelief (*Num 14*). If we aren't studying our Bibles we could end up like them and thus miss out on the promise of Heaven that is made to those who "love God" and are "called according to His purpose" (*Rom 8:28*).

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and

marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (*Gk.2588- the thoughts or feelings [mind]*).

“The word, which is the sword of the Spirit, is so sharp that it can divide the very ‘essence [syn.- core] of man.’ That word is also able to discern, or judge, a man’s very purpose in life. It can cause one to be seen as he really is since it reveals his very thoughts and feelings.”  
Gary Hampton

Jas 1:22 But be ye **doers of the word**, and **not hearers only**, **deceiving** your own selves. (*Emp. added*)

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman (*Gk.2040- toiler*) that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (*Gk.3718- to dissect*) the word of truth. 16 But **shun profane** (*Gk.952- heathenish, wicked*) and **vain babblings** (*Gk.2757- empty sounding, that is, fruitless discussion*): for they will increase (*Gk.4298- advance*) unto more ungodliness. (*Emp. added*)

If we allow ourselves to be pulled into worldly, fruitless discussions of the ignorant that can’t possibly be of benefit to anyone, it may only advance their arrogant pride.

Pro 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

- **Teach Boldly!**

Jesus “was daily with [the Jews] in the temple teaching” (*Mk 14:48*) them, which shows the power of teaching truth to those who long for it and even to those who don’t (*2 Tim 2:25*). Paul told the Ephesian elders that he “kept back nothing that was profitable” concerning “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (*Act 20:20*). If we don’t want people to spend an eternity in a fiery Hell we will teach then the things that are profitable to the saving of their eternal souls.

2Ti 2:2 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.** (*Teach, baptize, teach- the Great Commission of Mat 28:19-20*) (*Emp. added*)

- **Question Boldly!**

As Jesus was questioned in Mark 11 concerning by what authority He taught and did what He did, He fired back with a question they didn't see coming. We have to be willing and able to put people who are not sincere on the spot by being able to question their ideas against what the Bible states as our standard. If **they** are not willing to use the same standard for **their** defense there would be no sense in further discussion. Jesus said "for of the abundance of the heart (*Gk.2588*) the mouth speaketh" (*Lk 6:45*). A person's language reveals the kind of person they really are.

Tit 1:13 This witness is true. Wherefore **rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith** (*Put them to the test in order to get them to see the truth!*); Not giving heed (*Don't give in!*) to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, **that turn from the truth.** 15 Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. **They profess that they know God; but in works** (*action speaks louder than words*) **they deny Him**, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate (*Gk.96-worthless*). (*Emp. added*)

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore **wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.** (*Emp. added*)

Rom 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a **zeal of God**, but **not according to knowledge**. (*Emp. added*)

*“But didn’t Jesus state that Christians are to be peace makers (Mat 5:9)?” “Are we to be pacifists then?”* Being peace makers and being pacifiers are two entirely different things. We are to be **militant** about peace making! The peacemaker is the one who makes peace between man and God and not the one who cowers in a Biblical discussion when confronted by false doctrine. Even though the following verses concern qualifications that men must meet to become elders, they are also to be understood as critical for every Christian. In Titus 1 Paul spoke of “holding fast (*Gk.472- adhere to; by extension to care for*) the faithful word” (*v. 9*) “and to convince” (*Gk.1651- Thayer: “used of the exposure and confrontation of false teachers of Christianity”*) “the gainsayers” (*Gk.483- to dispute: -contradict, speak against*).

These are arrogant people who like to debate things they know nothing about and in many cases are able to convince the unlearned and ignorant of their false teachings. We see this in many televangelists (*and those with man-made titles*) who elicit the pity of old people into sending in their hard earned social security income to support their lavish lifestyles. And most, if not all, denominations are guilty of **not** knowing the depth of truth! As Peter said, “they are unlearned (*don’t understand fully what they are teaching*) and unstable (*Gk.793- vacillating*) wrest [-ing] (*Gk.4761- to pervert*), as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction” (*2 Pet 3:16*). In keeping this from happening we make peace between those who are perverting scripture and the God Who inspired the men who wrote them by convincing them of the truth. Therefore, in order to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (*v. 18*), we, by sound doctrine are able to confront and expose the error of false teaching.

- **Speak Out Boldly!**

Act 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that **with all boldness they may speak Thy word**, (*Emp. added*)

There will always be those who claim they cannot rationally believe that Jesus ever existed let alone that He rose from the dead. But we are to be thankful that they recognize His contribution to mankind by even discussing the subject of His existence.

Php 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense (*Gk.627- plea*) of the Gospel. 18 What then? Notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, **Christ is preached** (*Gk.2605- to proclaim: - declare, speak of*); and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. (*Emp. added*)

Therefor we are to plead boldly with the lost, of the saving grace of Christ, speaking with conviction of Him always. The result of proclaiming the message of the Gospel will either convict the humble or disgust the defiant. Notice Felix's reaction to Paul having spoken boldly of the truth.

Act 24:25 And as he **reasoned** (*Gk.1256- to say thoroughly, that is, discuss [in argument or exhortation]*) of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, **Felix trembled**, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. (*Emp. added*)

Notice also Agrippa's response after Paul reasoned with him.

Act 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. 29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Heb 10:35 Cast **not** away therefore **your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.** 36 For **ye have need of patience,** that, after **ye have done the will of God,** ye might receive the promise. (*Emp. added*)

1Jn 2:28 And now, little children, **abide in Him;** that, when He shall appear, **we may have confidence,** and **not be ashamed** before Him at His coming. (*Emp. added*)

Thus we boldly proclaim, as militant soldiers of the cross, the Gospel and the steps one must take to be saved.

Victorious: (Victory) Gk.3534- a conquest, triumph.

Once the church militant has triumphed in her conquest against Satan and his devices (*2 Cor 2:11*) she continues her existence in the afterlife as the church victorious. Her faithful members enter into Paradise to await the resurrection once victorious in death even though they have “passed from death unto life” (*Jn 5:24*). This is the place Jesus told the penitent thief where he would be with Him that day (*Lk 23:43*). It is also the place where Lazarus went to be by Abraham’s side (*Lk 16:22*). It is the place where the faithful have resided since Abel’s death to await the resurrection of the dead (*1 Cor 15:51-54*). From here the Lord will raise the faithful when He returns to glorify His bride the church.

### Glorified

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband.

John saw in this vision the glorified state of the church of Christ, the capital city of Heaven, since the physical Jerusalem has in this scene been replaced and her spiritual citizenry has here been “grafted into their own olive tree” (*Rom 11:23-24*). Since she “is the mother of us all” (*Gal 4:26*) the church came from her (*Act 2:2-4; Rev 12*). It is assured that the faithful will reside in Heaven in this glorified state.

-----

Examples of origin: Jn 3:13; 6:33, 38. The "coming down out of Heaven" in these passages refers to the incarnation of Christ. His origin is the same as the city's origin (*Heaven*) except for the fact that Jesus has always existed (*Jn 1:1-2; 8:58*), and that the 'New Jerusalem' has yet to be revealed (*this is the place Jesus told His disciples in **John 14** that He needed to "go to prepare"*). Faithful Christians, who make up the bride (*1 Cor 3:16*), will constitute her citizenry since we have received the promise of "our inheritance" (*Eph 1:13-14; 1 Jn 1:7*). Only after Jesus ascended did the kingdom come on "the day of Pentecost" (*Act 2:1*). That place came "down from God out of Heaven" in the form of Christ's body, the 'militant' church (*Eph 6:10-17*). Here, John sees her in her glorified state after the resurrection/judgment. Jesus said He would come back (*to earth for His bride after the figurative 1,000-year reign of the saints is completed*), receive the faithful (*the kingdom, His bride the church via the resurrection*) and take her back to Heaven (*her place of origin- Rom 8:29-30*) with Him. Only those who have participated in the "marriage supper of the Lamb" (*Rev 19:9*) will have a part in the church victorious when she appears in her glorified state.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also **which sleep in Jesus** will God bring (*Gk.71- **lead***) with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (*Gk.5348- **precede***) them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ **shall rise first**: 17 **Then** we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (*Emp. added*)

- 
- prepared- Gk.2090- to *prepare*: -make ready. In Jn 14:2 Jesus said "I go **to prepare** a place for you". (*Emp. added*) This is the "place" He prepared. It is a prepared place for a

prepared people (12:6; *Jn 14:3*): Rom 7:4; 2 Cor 11:2; Col 1:13.

-----

The city (*yet to be glorified [Rom 8:17] as she exists on earth*), is presently being prepared for the Lamb (*Husband*) via the Gospel (*those in Paradise awaiting our preparation, i.e., faithfulness until death*) so that He can present His bride, the church, to Himself (*Eph 5:27*) after the judgment and then to His Father. Read 1 Cor 15:24-28.



### VI.5. Questions

1. What is dependent upon the boldness of every Christian? a) the true identity of the church; b) our faith in Christ; c) the support of leadership.
2. How do we weed out those who are insincere where it concerns studying the Bible? a) by putting them in their place; b) by preaching the word; c) by asking if you showed them what the Bible says would they believe it.
3. If someone makes a claim concerning any passage of scripture, what must they be willing to do? a) back up their words with their personal knowledge of scripture; b) use the same standard, the Bible, to defend their position; c) get advice from the preacher.
4. By what are we to expose the error of false teaching? a) opinion; b) sound doctrine; c) scientific knowledge.
5. True or false: It is possible to have zeal for God but not according to knowledge. a) the text does not say; b) true; c) false.
6. How are we to speak concerning the word of truth? a) with pride; b) with confidence; c) with superiority.
7. What do Christians receive as a reward for remaining faithful? a) assurance of Heaven; b) words of adoration; c) the gift of praise.
8. At death, the faithful Christian enters what stage of life in the church? a) the church glorified; b) the church victorious; c) the church militant.