

To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas,

Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023

## The Wars of the Lord, Part II

I am finishing up my last sermon on the Wars of the Lord (I will return to my sermon on Balaam next time), and I had just finished a quote from William Gurnall (1616 – 1679).

*The Christian in Complete Armour, William Gurnall, 1616-1679*

**Right now, as I speak, there is raging war between the Saint and Satan, and that so bloody a one, that the cruelest which ever was fought by men, will be found by sport and child's play to this. Alas, what is the killing of bodies to the destroying of everlasting souls? It is a sad meditation indeed, to think how many thousands have been sent to the grave in a few late years among us by the sword of man; but far more astonishing, to consider how many of those may be sent to hell by the sword of God's wrath. It is a spiritual war we are in, and that not a history of what was fought many ages past and is now over; but of what now is going on, the tragedy is at present acting, and that not at the furthest end of the world, but what concerns thee. The stage whereon this war is fought, is every man's soul. There is no neutral party in this war. The whole world is engaged in this quarrel of the covenant, either for God against Satan or for Satan against God. Who are you for?**

**2Co 10:4 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. 5 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.***

**Isaiah 58:1 *Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.***

**2 Tim. 4:1-2 *I charge (command – a military term) thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.***

**2 Tim. 2:3 *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 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.***

Knowing that our warfare is not carnal, but spiritual - what is enduring hardness as a good soldier and what is a good soldier?

Barnes: *Soldiers often endure great privations (a state where things essential for human well-being such as food and warmth are scarce or lacking). Taken from their homes and friends; exposed to cold, or heat, or storms, or fatiguing marches; sustained on coarse fare, or almost destitute of food, they are often compelled to endure as much as the human frame can bear, and often, indeed, sink under their burdens and die. If, for reward or their country's sake, they are willing to do this, the soldier of the cross should be willing to do it for his Saviour's sake, and for the good of the human race. Hence, let no man seek the office of the ministry as a place of ease. Let no one come into it merely to enjoy himself. Let no one enter it who is not prepared to lead a soldier's life, and to welcome hardship and trial as his portion. He would make a bad soldier, who, at his enlistment, should make it a condition that he should be permitted to sleep on a bed of down, and always be well clothed and fed, and never exposed to peril, or compelled to pursue a wearisome march.*

Gill: *Thou therefore endure hardness - "Or afflictions"; as in #2Ti 4:5. The same word is used there as here, and properly signifies, "suffer evil"; and means the evil of afflictions, as persecutions of every kind, loss of name and goods, scourging, imprisonment, and death itself, for the sake of Christ and the Gospel: as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Christ is the Captain of salvation, the Leader and Commander of the people, who are made a willing people in the day of his power; or when he raises his forces, and musters his armies, these are volunteers, who willingly enlist themselves into his service, and under his banners fight his battles; and such who manfully behave against sin, Satan, and the world, are his good soldiers; such are all true believers in Christ, and particularly the ministers of the word, whose ministry is a warfare, and who fight the good fight of faith; and besides the above enemies, which they have in common with other saints, have to do with teachers, who are wolves in sheep's clothing.*

Regarding a soldier's duty - See U.S. Army Values Revised attached at the end of this document.

There was a quote I saw from J.C. Riley that says *the affliction that you are experiencing right now is the exact affliction that YOU NEED!* Don't say: why is this affliction happening to me? You know the answer. It is happening because you need it. Ro 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.*

The path to heaven is the most difficult way there is. The elect barely makes it. 1 Pet 4:18 *And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*

Mat. 7:13 *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*



#### **Kahekili Highway –**

Beloved, here is a photo of Highway 340 on Maui called the Kahekili Highway sometimes called “the wild coast of northern Maui”. Or some people just call it “Death Highway.” You

may have heard that the Road to Hana on Maui is treacherous with 600 curves and 50 single lane bridges on it. But I will tell you the Road to Hana is child's play compared to the Kahekili highway. It is a “**strait**” (narrow – the Bearing Strait) and “narrow” way. This highway is something like 20 miles of death all around you. The only good thing is that it is paved. It is mountainous, windy, and narrow with no guard rails and truly one lane. At one point on an outside mountain curve with death below we had to pull so far over that part of wheel was not on the pavement to let a car go by. I pulled as far over as I could with part of the tire off and stopped and made the car go by. Our mirrors were a couple of inches from hitting each other. That is a strait and narrow way. When it is that narrow, you must discern all the time (see Charles Sermon a few months ago). You must be focused on what you are doing 100% of the time. It was an exhausting hour and a half drive. It was nothing but mountain switchbacks and hair pin curves. Shirl watched the GPS, so I knew when we had a blind curve coming. She did the same when we came down

Haleakala Mountain in complete darkness with no guardrails descending from 10,000 feet.



- **Hilary Step** This is the Hilary Step on Mount Everest. It is in the death zone (above 27,000 feet). It is below the Summit. It is extremely narrow, and death is literally all around you. One small miscalculation and you

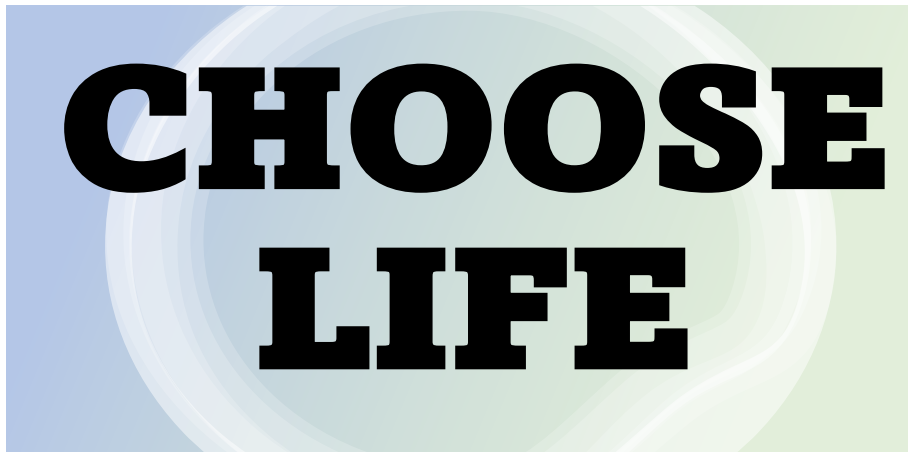
die. There are numerous dead bodies there, because, when you perish there, there you stay. The path is not only narrow, but what you can do on it is highly restricted. Such is our path in this world. We cannot engage in presumptuous sin and revelry on this path or get caught up with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. (1 John 2:16) If we are on the right path, our Lord Christ will lead you by the hand and help you with all you need. See (Isaiah 41 and 42.) Flesh does not like this path because of the structure, focus, restrictions, and discipline involved. We can't behave just any way; we must follow the instructions that Christ gave us. It is the difference between life and death. Those appointed to this good path are joyful and so thankful and happy to be on it. One is not going to accidentally stumble into heaven – this way is not only strait and narrow, but it is hidden to those not appointed to it. 2 Cor. 4:3 *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*

## – DEATH EATERS



One of our loved ones said that the people of this world feed each other death. Our YOU LOVE DEATH sign is timely! We try to give them the behavior and religion of LIFE, but what they want is death. That is what this world will do to and for you, feed you death.

We say: **CHOOSE LIFE.**



### - CHOOSE LIFE

Moses says this in Deut. 30:15 ... *I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; 16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in*

*His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. 17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: **THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE, THAT BOTH THOU AND THY SEED MAY LIVE:** 20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days... And, in the abortion battle, which should not be a battle at all – we way CHOOSE LIFE – don't commit murder.*

Eph 5:5 *Let no man deceive you... the wrath of God comes upon the children of disobedience.* Ro 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* You have death and life before you, choose life.

Beloved we are here on this earth for a very short time, and in that short time our fate for eternity is appointed by God. The outcomes are clear: 1) *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments;* (Luke 16:23); or, 2a) awake in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:23); 2b) *The Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints to execute judgment upon all and 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.* (1 Thes 4:16; Jude 14-15).

Jesus Christ is God and he is unable to lie. Nu 23:19 *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*



*Luke 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple (Barnes: chiefly worn by princes and nobles) and fine linen (Barnes: Egyptian cotton), and fared sumptuously every day (great wealth):*

*20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus*

*evil things (privation): but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

Beloved, is this a parable or not? It is not a parable. A version of the word “parable” (parable or parables) is used 45 times in the Gospels. When the Holy Spirit wanted to notify His listeners that He was speaking in a parable He told them straight up. A parable is a story used to illustrate a spiritual or moral lesson.” In this case the Lord Jesus Christ specifically says “*There was a certain rich man.*” And then He says, *And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus.* Christ didn’t name the rich man (because it doesn’t matter), but he did name a man called Lazarus. Matthew Henry: *From the Latin we commonly call him Dives — a rich man.*

Matthew Henry: *The rich man - That plenty and pleasure are a very dangerous and to many a fatal temptation to luxury, and sensuality, and forgetfulness of God and another world... That the indulgence of the body, and the ease and pleasure of that, are the ruin of many a soul, and the interests of it. There was a certain beggar, named Lazarus - A beggar of that name, eminently devout, and in great distress, was probably well known among good people at that time. He was so sore and lame that he could not go himself, but was carried by some compassionate hand or other, and laid at the rich man's gate.... This miserable man was a good man, and in favour with God. Note, it is often the lot of some of the dearest of God's saints and servants to be greatly afflicted in this world, while wicked people prosper, and have abundance.... Here is a child of wrath and an heir of hell sitting in the house, faring sumptuously; and a child of love and an heir of heaven lying at the gate, perishing for hunger. And is men's spiritual state to be judged of then by their outward condition?*

*They both died (Lu 16:22): The beggar died; the rich man also died. Death is the common lot of rich and poor, godly and ungodly; there they meet together. One dieth in his full strength, and another in the bitterness of his soul; but they shall lie*

*down alike in the dust, Job 21:26. Death favours not either the rich man for his riches or the poor man for his poverty. Saints die, that they may bring their sorrows to an end, and may enter upon their joys. Sinners die, that they may go to give up their account. It concerns both rich and poor to prepare for death, for it waits for them both.*

*The rich man died and was buried. Nothing is said of the interment of the poor man. They dug a hole anywhere, and tumbled his body in, without any solemnity; he was buried with the burial of an ass: nay, it is well if they that let the dogs lick his sores did not let them gnaw his bones. But the rich man had a pompous funeral, lay in state, had a train of mourners to attend him to his grave, and a stately monument set up over it; probably he had a funeral oration in praise of him, and his generous way of living, and the good table he kept, which those would commend that had been feasted at it. It is said of the wicked man that he is brought to the grave with no small ado, and laid in the tomb, and the clods of the valley, were it possible, are made sweet to him, Job 21:32-33. How foreign is the ceremony of a funeral to the happiness of the man!*

*The beggar died and was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom. How much did the honour done to his soul, by this convoy of it to its rest, exceed the honour done to the rich man, by the carrying of his body with so much magnificence to its grave! Observe,*

*(1.) His soul existed in a state of separation from the body. It did not die, or fall asleep, with the body; his candle was not put out with him; but lived, and acted, and knew what it did, and what was done to it.*

*(2.) His soul removed to another world, to the world of spirits; it returned to God who gave it, to its native country; this is implied in its being carried. The spirit of a man goes upward.*

*(3.) Angels took care of it; it was carried by angels. They are ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation, not only while they live, but when they die, and have a charge concerning them, to bear them up in their hands, not only in their journeys to and fro on earth, but in their great journey to their long home in heaven, to be both their guide and their guard through regions unknown and unsafe.*

Beloved, If the Lord carries, we will die and go to the grave – guaranteed. There is little in life that is 100% certain but this is. You can't trick, strategize, cajole, or



buy your way out of death UNLESS you are alive at the coming of our Lord in great glory and many more words on that good thing. You can't go around it, you can't go over it, you can't go under it, and you can't avoid it. Period. It doesn't matter if you are Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, Elon Musk or Taylor Swift, you will face death and go to the grave and you will not take any of the wealth and power you have accumulated with you. You will stand naked before God and give an account for everything you did and everything you said in this life. 2Co 5:10 *For we must all appear (you will get a summons you cannot ignore) before the judgment seat (the white throne) of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.* There is a new movie that opened a month ago called *After Death*, where they explore a bunch of near-death experiences by people and where they argue there is life after death. One of the reviews said: *Fairly limp... The movie doesn't unearth any new ground, and really, how could it?*

When you are conceived, it is the start of your body and your soul, but when you die your soul continues and it has no end. As humans we are not prepared to fully understand eternity. It is math we can't comprehend or solve for. How can you effectively describe eternity using the concept of time and apply it to that which has no beginning or end?

The line around the church represents eternity, the tick mark at the start is the time you are alive. In eternity, time is no more. What you do here has implications you cannot begin to comprehend. Don't believe Satan and this world when he says you shall not surely die. You will die and you will die the second death from which you never escape or recover.

Life is short and you will never know how short it is until you are dead. You cannot count on your 70 or 80 years – God appoints our days, but we know eternity never ends. Spurgeon says: *we should live this short life in the light of eternity.* Eternity is coming and it will be here before you know it – it might be 5 minutes from now or fifty years from now, but the time is counting down toward it every second.

Mat. 25:46 *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

2 Thes 1:9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

Rev. 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Rev. 20:12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. 2 Peter 2:1 - But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 ¶ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;*

Mat. 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

Our days on earth are our proving ground beloved. I love you all. Amen.

## U.S. ARMY VALUES REVISED

(Enduring hardness as a good soldier means something; this might help.)

### LOYALTY

Bear true faith and allegiance to the ~~U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit~~ God and other soldiers. Bearing true faith and allegiance is a matter of believing in and devoting yourself to something or someone. A loyal soldier is one who supports the leadership and stands up for fellow soldiers. By wearing the uniform of ~~the U.S. Army~~ the Lord Jesus Christ you are expressing your loyalty. And by doing your share, you show your loyalty to your unit.

### DUTY

Fulfill your obligations. Doing your duty means more than carrying out your assigned tasks. Duty means being able to accomplish tasks as part of a team. ~~The work of the U.S. Army is a complex combination of missions, tasks and responsibilities — all in constant motion. Our work entails building one assignment onto another.~~ You fulfill your obligations as a part of your unit every time you resist the temptation to take “shortcuts” that might undermine the integrity of the final product.

### RESPECT

Treat people as they should be treated. In the Soldier’s Code, we pledge to “treat others with dignity and respect while expecting others to do the same.” Respect is what allows us to appreciate the best in other people. Respect is trusting that all people have done their jobs and fulfilled their duty. ~~And self-respect is a vital ingredient with the Army value of respect, which results from knowing you have put forth your best effort. The Army is one team and each of us has something to contribute.~~

### SELFLESS SERVICE

Put ~~the welfare of the nation, the Army~~ God and your ~~subordinates~~ fellow soliders before you ~~own~~. Selfless service is larger than just one person. In serving ~~your country~~ God, you are doing your duty loyally without thought of recognition or gain. The basic building block of selfless service is the commitment of each team member to go a little further, endure a little longer, and look a little closer to see how he or she can add to the effort.

### HONOR

~~Live up to Army values. The nation’s highest military award is The Medal of Honor. This award goes to Soldiers who make honor a matter of daily living —~~ Soldiers who develop the habit of being honorable toward God, ~~and~~ solidify that habit with every value choice they make. Honor is a matter of carrying out, acting, and living the values of respect, duty, loyalty, selfless service, integrity and personal courage in everything you do toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

## INTEGRITY

Do what's right, legally and morally [in God's service](#). Integrity is a quality you develop by adhering to moral principles. It requires that you do and say nothing that deceives [God or other soldiers](#) [others](#). As your integrity grows, so does the trust others place in you. The more choices you make based on integrity, the more this highly prized value will affect your relationships with family and friends, and, finally, the fundamental acceptance of yourself.

## PERSONAL COURAGE

Face fear, danger or adversity (physical or moral). Personal courage has long been associated with [our Army God](#). With physical courage, it is a matter of enduring physical duress and at times risking personal safety [and enduring hardness](#). Facing moral fear or adversity may be a long, slow process of continuing forward on the right [\(strait and narrow\)](#) path, especially if taking those actions is not popular with others. You can build your personal courage by daily standing up for [Godly things](#) and acting upon the things that you know are honorable. [A good soldier keeps ranks, follows commands, and complete his or her assignment courageously and fulfills his or her duty.](#)