## The Gospel Herald

"As the truth is in Jesus" (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD'S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS by
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## "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?"

(II Corin. 6:14)

Dear brethren in the common faith and hope of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Being that my mind has been directed to the passive position of the elect, chosen, ordained and called heirs of our eternal God, may I continue some thoughts?

As a called people into the kingdom of God's dear Son by the miracle of the operation of God's sovereign and free grace, "for ye have been BOUGHT with a price; therefore, glory God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corin. 6:20). The body of the believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit the Apostle declares, therefore, what right do we as God's people have to chose to be UNEQUALLY YOKED with unbelievers in the military of the United States through oath and allegiance? To voluntarily subject our bodies into harm's way seeking to be national defenders. Do we have that liberty as God's Holy Temples?

Who would argue with me about the influence of the military techniques of training is contrary to Biblical teaching? What happen to turning the other cheek? Why would a young man or woman subject themselves to the temptations and non-Christian behavior that is practiced in most military atmosphere? You brethren that have been there, how often have you seen young fellows that had never used tobacco, begin to use it under the influence of others in the Service? How about the use of Alcohol? Plus, the temptation of lustful immorality? And vulgarity of language?

Jesus in his sample prayer said, "Deliver us from temptation," yet the military volunteer has thrown themselves among the some of the greatest of temptations. As much as the Old Baptists have historically strived to maintain the simplicity and doctrine once delivered unto the saints, is it good then to turn around and say, "it's a

good thing to leave the church fellowship and go off to serve the country." What we are saying is, I am leaving the fellowship of the brethren to go join in oath and union with a majority of gung-ho patriotic freedom fighters to preserve our national freedoms.

Oh! but if Christians don't join in the effort to protect our freedoms and liberties by being part of the military what direction will this country go? It will go in the exact direction the Lord God Almighty shall determine.

The patriotic mind thinks in numbers as the key to military might, and logically that sounds natural and legitimate, yet Gideon started out with a 32,000 person army, God said, "The people that are with thee are TOO MANY" (Judges 7: 2). Gideon reduced the number to 10,000, and the Lord said, "The people are yet too many." Gideon ended up with 300 people in his army to fight against a multitude of the Midianites and Amalekites with power of God causing the VICTORY.

Therefore, IT IS NOT THE NUMBER of a military might that makes it great and victorious, it is whether or not the God of the scriptures has ordained a nation to win the battle in fulfilling his divine sovereign purpose.

I see a definite line drawn between the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and the STATE of government. When we subject ourselves to the "mastery" of the government military, we forfeit our liberties to worship God as we ought.

We are subject to military chapel services that speak ecumenical words of Protestantism to accommodate ALL beliefs, teaching the doctrines of men and Arminian at best. Shall we take the temples of God bought with a price and forfeit the a capella singing of sound doctrinal songs of the Old Paths and depart from the sweetness of the Lord's assembly?

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." That law is still in effect and can be a devastating. To sow oneself among the military of the State, is as sacrificing your purchased possession to the mercy of the government. Swearing to obey the rules and regulations of this nations armament endeavors, including the killing of the innocent, of people to whom we have never seen nor met before. Is there some of God's elect among those we are sent to kill? God forbid, yet he alone has determined man's way.

I see an army of CHRISTAIN SOLDIERS marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before. The Lord's army needs NO carnal weapons, as our warfare is NOT carnal, but spiritual. Warring against powers and principalities of darkness dressed in the armor of our God and equipped with the sword of the Spirit, yea, even the WORD of GOD that abideth forever, even when the world is a flaming inferno and the elements thereof shall be burned up and armies shall be no more