



# PLANO CHURCH OF CHRIST

406 Lew Street Plano, IL 60545

Facebook Plano IL Church of Christ

*"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matt 9:38)*

## SUNDAY

Bible Study 10:00 am  
Worship - 10:50 am  
Worship - 4:00 pm

## WEDNESDAY

Bible Study - 7:00 pm  
Evangelist & Editor:  
Bryan Bickford

**The Plano Harvest**

**Jan. 1 2017**

**Vol. 4 No. 23**

## GOING TO HEAVEN

Our number one priority in this life must be to go to Heaven. Jesus says in *Matthew 6:33*, "*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*" Our soul is the most precious thing we have, (*Matthew 16:26*). There is nothing that can equal its value.

It is easy in today's society to get caught up in the pursuit of THINGS if we are not careful. Our Lord says in *Matthew 6:19-21*, "*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.*" Where are your treasures?

Every day we need to tell ourselves that the main thing in this life is to go to Heaven, "*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*" (*Colossians 3:2*). Heaven is a prepared place (*John 14:2-3*) for a prepared people. There is no way that Heaven can be described so we as mortal human beings can understand how wonderful it will be (*1 Corinthians 2:9*).

A person will not accidentally go to Heaven. It begins with baptism for the forgiveness of sins (*Acts 2:37-38; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:1-10*), and continues by being faithful to God's Word until we die (*Revelation 2:10*). Therefore we must be students of His Word (*2 Peter 3:18*).

Bryan Bickford

## OUR ATTITUDES

There is a right way and a wrong way to look at everything. No one is perfect and more than likely all of us at one time or another has been guilty of looking at things with the wrong attitude.

**This would include the Bible.**

### **Wrong Attitudes**

An indifferent attitude is the result of a do nothing, learn nothing, know nothing, and be nothing frame of mind. As a result, we are unconcerned about truth, do not care what the Bible says, and accept any and everything upon the grounds that it is OK with me.

An attitude of selfishness is also a problem that we deal with, and because of it we often try to interpret scripture in the light of what we want it to say rather than what it says.

An attitude of arrogance sometimes finds its way into our hearts. It is the attitude of "I am right and I cannot be wrong." "*This is an abomination to the Lord*" (*Proverbs 16:5*).

### **The Right Attitude**

The proper attitude that we should have at all times, especially when considering the Bible is humility. By humility we destroy our own will (*Luke 9:23*), and recognize God as our Superior and others as our equals (*Philippians 2:3*). We "*study to show ourselves approved to God . . . accurately handling the word of truth*" (*2 Timothy 2:15*), and once we have learned the truth, we will "*humbly*" receive it and obey it (*James 1:21-22*).

Arthur M. Ogden (edited by Bryan B)

▪ A heart warmed by the gospel of Christ will not be cold and indifferent toward others.

▪ If peacemakers are called "*sons of God*" (*Matt 5:9*), what would troublemakers be called?

## LET'S BUILD THE CHURCH TOGETHER

My friend and preaching colleague Ken Green recently shared this touching story on Facebook.

It was the closing night of a summer VBS. The teacher of one of the classes had missed one night and hadn't encountered a boy who had come that night and who was there that Friday. He only had one hand. It shook her a little and she began to be afraid that the others might make fun of him. But things went smoothly and she soon put the boy's handicap out of her mind.

When they assembled in the auditorium and the time came for the closing program she led the children to the front and told them: "Now, let's all build our churches. Put your hands together now, here's the "church," here's the steeple . . . ."

Suddenly, she was aware of what she had done. The little boy couldn't build a "church" because he had only one hand. After a moment of awkward silence, the little girl seated next to him held her hand up to his and said, "Here, let's build the church together."

**Together. That describes the relationship of the early church in Jerusalem.** *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need."*

*"So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42-47)*

There are at least 5 ways in which this text speaks of these Christians being together.

**(1) They were together in their fellowship.** After all that's what fellowship is. It's togetherness. Commonality. Joint Participation. Sharing. Their fellowship extended beyond the assembly into their daily activities. Into their homes.

**(2) They were together in their ministry.** They realized a need existed among their fellowship. So

they shared their possessions with each other. No one went hungry. No one lacked. No one suffered. They were together.

**(3) They were together in their worship.** They were united in their teaching based on the inspired apostle's doctrine. They shared in communion. And together raised their voices in prayer and petition to the Lord. Together they praised God.

**(4) They were together in discipleship.** Through the apostle's teaching they were edified. The book of Acts records the strength of this movement as they followed Jesus, modeled His character, and developed spiritual discipline. Together they were one in Christ.

**(5) They were together in sharing the Good News.** As a result the church grew. New Believers were added. And together they became stronger.

Together. It was a key to their success. And ours. If we are to follow their example. When you do a Bible word search on "together," here's what you LEARN.

We have been *"united together"* in Christ. We are *"heirs together."* *"Raised up together."* And *"knit together."* *"Built together."* *"Fitted together."* So we are to be *"workers together."*

Who? Men. Women. Young people. Old People. Elders. Preachers. Deacons. People with great abilities. And some with disabilities. The strong. The weak. Black. White. Asian. Hispanic. Latino. Everyone.

Together. We add value. Share strengths. Overcome challenges. And provide a loving atmosphere where faith is strengthened and hope is fortified.

Together. We offer a helping hand to those in need.  
**Together let's build the church.**

-Ken Weliever, ThePreacherman  
(<https://thepreachersword.com>)

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**In what do you put your confidence? In lying words from optimistic false teachers (Jer 7:4, 8)? In riches (Ps 52:7)? In important people (Ps 146:3-4; Amos 6:1)? In the perception of your own heart (Prov 28:26)? In excellent equipment such as horses and chariots (Isa 31:1)? In your own experience and expertise (Ps 44:6)? Or in the living God (Ps 118:8-9; Prov 3:21-26)?**



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**The Plano Harvest**

**Jan. 22 2017**

**Vol. 4 No. 24**

### **Be Patient, the Lord Will Return**

***Acts 1:11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."***

What a exciting time, and a time of mixed emotions. As Jesus was speaking to them, He starts to rise up right in front of them into the clouds and out of sight! We read this all the time (*Acts 1:9-10*), but do we stop and picture this in our minds and try to put ourselves in the Apostles sandals? They still are thinking of an earthly kingdom (*1:6*), and now their King, their friend, and their Master was taken from them! Yet at the same time how amazing was this. Jesus has told them many times He was going home to the Father, and that it was needed for Him to go and that He would return (*Jn 14-17*). I love Barnes comment on this, "With this mingled amazement, disappointment, and curiosity, and with an earnest desire to catch the last glimpse of their beloved Master, they naturally continued to gaze on the distant clouds where He had mysteriously disappeared from their view. Never was a scene more impressive, grand, and solemn than this." (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft)

Our Lord's ascension into heaven was an important part of His ministry, for if He had not returned to the Father (see *Dan 7:13-14* for heavens viewpoint), He could not have sent as promised the Comforter, the Holy Spirit (*Jn 16:5-15*). Today in heaven Jesus is our High Priest who is interceding for us, (*Heb 4:14-16*). Our Savior and Lord is also our Advocate before the Father, forgiving us when

we confess our sins (*1 Jn 1:9-2:2*). He is the exalted (*Acts 2:33*) and glorified Head of the church (*Eph 1:22-23*) and is now working with His people on earth helping them accomplish His purposes (*Mk 16:19-20; Matt 28:19-20; Heb 13:5-6*).

The way these men were gazing into the sky as Jesus leaves them and this right after they had asked Him whether He would at that time restore the kingdom to Israel, and now He's gone?! They can't see Him no matter how hard they look. Can you see how easily they would be anxious for His return? I can. Suddenly next to them are these two men dressed in white clothing (*Acts 1:11*). They were sent to meet and comfort the disciples at this time. Be patient, the Lord will return. Jesus is coming again and He can come at any time. This in itself should be a great motivation for a faithful Christian life of service (*Lk12:34-48*). Years later Peter addressed this subject...

*2 Pet 3:1-9 Dear friends, this is now the second letter I have written to you; in both letters, I want to develop a genuine understanding with a reminder, 2 so that you can remember the words previously spoken by the holy prophets and the command of our Lord and Savior given through your apostles. 3 First, be aware of this: Scoffers will come in the last days to scoff, living according to their own desires, 4 saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? Ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they have been since the beginning of creation." 5 They willfully ignore this: Long ago the heavens and the earth were brought about from water and through water by the word of God. 6 Through these waters the world of that time perished when it was flooded. 7 But by the same word, the present heavens and earth are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 Dear friends, don't*

let this one thing escape you: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. (HCSB)

## **OUR IMPATIENCE CAN LEAD TO INDIFFERENCE, AND INDIFFERENCE CAN DAMAGE ONE'S ...**

- **FAITH**
- **ZEAL**
- **MORALS**
- **FAITHFULNESS**
- **BIBLE STUDY**
- **ATTENDANCE**
- **WORSHIP**
- **WORK**
- **DESIRE TO CONTINUE**
- **REACHING HEAVEN**

2 Peter 3:10-14 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.* (NIV)

Bryan Bickford

### **A Godly Couple**

***Romans 16:3-5 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; 5 also greet the church that is in their house.***

Aquila and Priscilla, man and woman, husband and wife, appear several times in Scripture as important workers in the early church. They are always mentioned together because they were a team. Being Jews, they were expelled from Rome; as a result they met Paul in Corinth and they offered

their home to Paul (*Acts 18:1-3*). They went with Paul from Corinth to Ephesus (*Acts 18:18-19*) and became well established and remained there for a period of time, in fact the church met in their home (*Acts 18:19-21; 1 Corinthians 16:19*). It was here that Aquila and Priscilla helped Apollos better understand the gospel (*Acts 18:18-28*). Apollos became an effective preacher in Corinth (*Acts 18:27-28*). This godly couple obviously helped to influence many to Christ.

Later we learn that Aquila and Priscilla returned back to Rome where the church met in their home there as well (*Romans 16:3-5*). Later, during Paul's second imprisonment, they are found in Ephesus again (*2 Timothy 4:19*). This godly couple is clearly Paul's "fellow workers in Christ."

Aquila and Priscilla saved Paul's life at the risk of losing their own. They loved Paul so much that they were willing to lay down their own lives for him (*John 15:13*); they could have no greater love. Aquila and Priscilla is a wonderful example of a godly marriage.

Bryan Bickford

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### **See If You Can Keep This Straight**

A duel was fought by James Shott and John Nott. Nott was shot and Shott was not. In this case it was better to be Shott than Nott. There was a rumor that Nott was not shot, but Shott insisted that he himself was not. It may be the shot Shott shot shot Nott, or since accidents with firearms will happen, maybe the shot Shott shot shot Shott himself. We think, however, that the shot Shott shot shot not Shott but Nott.

The moral to the above story: make sure you know the correct story before you start shooting off your mouth because if such is untrue it would be better not to shoot at all than to shoot the wrong shot. Firing from the hip without due understanding and knowledge of what you are shooting and who you might be shooting at can bring about wounds untold to even innocent people. Remember, "***He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.***" (*Proverbs 18:13*) and "***Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.***" (*Colossians 4:6*).

Anonymous



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## The Plano Harvest

Jan. 29 2017

Vol. 4 No. 25

### FALLEN SOLDIERS

*2 Tim 2:3-4 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 2 Tim 4:9 Be diligent to come to me quickly;*

From his prison cell Paul writes his second letter to Timothy (approx. 3 yrs. after the first letter) urging Timothy to come to him before winter (*2 Tim 4:21*). Whether or not Timothy arrived before his execution we do not know.

Paul often used military illustrations in his letters. This is not surprising since he lived in a military state and was in prison himself as he writes this second letter to Timothy.

What are the characteristics of a "good soldier of Jesus Christ?" He suffers hardship for standing with and for Christ, and from life in general, and the list goes on. **But he never gives up!** He is totally committed to his Commanding Officer, the One who enlisted him, Jesus Christ. Too many times we may claim we are a good soldier of Christ but in reality we are a fallen soldier because we allow the things of this world to take priority over Christ. Look at your life, here is one example, look at your spending, are you spending so much that you give God left over's or nothing at all? How can we stand before our Commanding Officer and explain to Him that we spent our money (no His money) on "things" instead of giving from our heart back to Him what is His already? We also should examine what we spend our money on as well, is it glorifying God? ***"But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil."*** (*1 Thess 5:21-22*). It is so easy to allow ourselves to get tangled up in everyday life and become a fallen soldier. What is the goal of any soldier in the military? It is not to execute his own will or plans, but rather to serve the will or plans of his superior officers. The spiritual

application is put best by Paul in *Gal 2:20*. So let us never forget that Jesus is our Commanding Officer, our Savior who ***"rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins"*** (*Col 1:13-14*). We are either fighting with Him or against Him, there is no middle ground!

A good soldier of Christ fights the enemy (*Eph 6:10-18*), he fights the good fight, and he keeps the faith and a good conscience (*1 Tim 1:18-19*). A good soldier of Christ is not just a "worker," but he is a ***"fellow worker"*** (*Phil 2:25*). He doesn't just hear and forget, he is a "doer" (*James 1:23-27, 2:14-26*), and he is not just a soldier, but a ***"fellow soldier"*** (*Philemon 2*). He works, he fights with/for other fellow soldiers, and they work and fight together as one with Christ, ***"For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory"*** (*2 Tim 2:10*).

We are to be standing firmly together as one, side by side in the faith united together by Christ in Christ as good soldiers of Christ! But you know this (*2 Pet 1:12-13*).

***Rom 11:20 "but you stand by your faith."***

***1 Cor 16:13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith***

***Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.***

***1 Thess 3:8 stand firm in the Lord***

***Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.***

***Phil 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;***

(emphasis added by editor)

A soldier who does not work, who does not fight the good fight together and thinks only of himself is disloyal and undependable – he is now a fallen soldier.

Paul commanded (military expression) Timothy to fight the good fight, he commanded Timothy to keep the faith as we have already spoke of. Paul himself now knowing his life is coming to a violent end has done as he has commanded Timothy and us to do, *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”* (2 Tim 4:6-8).

Would a fallen soldier be difficult for Paul to accept? I cannot find a word strong enough to express what Paul would feel when he warns Timothy and informs him of those who were at one time a good soldier of Christ, but now they are fallen soldiers! I cannot find that word myself to explain how I feel when I see and hear of those who were at one time a good soldier of Christ and now they have fallen, they have given up, they have allowed Satan to recapture them (Read 2 Tim 2:24-26). Just this past week I have learned of several who I thought of as “good soldiers of Christ,” who have turned their back on the Son of God, who can no longer endure hardships for their Commanding Officer, the One who enlisted them, Jesus Christ. They have entangled themselves in the everyday affairs of life. Work schedule keeps them from attending; (valid or not) this will affect them, I know, I was there at one time. Making choices for Christ is no longer an option for them because it means not doing what they (“I”) want, what is easy and convenient for them (“ME”). A question was asked in Bible class, “Why is it that people do not give complete control of their lives to God?” The correct answer was given, “selfishness.” Too many people want to do what they want to do and if it agrees with the Word of God, great, if not then they, *“twist to their own destruction”* (2 Pet 3:16) God’s Word. That person is now a fallen soldier.

In Paul’s first letter to the young preacher Timothy, after he commanded him to fight the good fight, to keep the faith, he told him there are some who have not done this. ***1 Tim 1:19-20 ...some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. 20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.***

Hymenaeus and Alexander deliberately rejected their faith and good consciences, and did not fight the good fight, why? in order to defend their ungodly lives. Paul did not tell us exactly what they did, except that their sin involved “blaspheming” in some way. Paul said that he handed them over to Satan (see 1 Cor 5:4-5), he is speaking of church discipline. Hymenaeus is mentioned

again in Paul’s second letter, this time he is mentioned with Philetus. Paul tells us what these fallen soldiers are charged with and guilty of – *“worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some”* (2 Tim 2:16-18). An Alexander was also mentioned (not sure if same man) in the second letter to Timothy – *“Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words”* (2 Tim 4:14-15).

These fallen soldiers are capable of doing a lot of damage (both physical and spiritual) to the local church. When Paul asked Timothy to hurry and come to him, we can hear, see and feel the anguish in his words, ***“Make every effort to come to me soon; 10 for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica”*** (2 Tim 4:9-10).

When Paul said he fought the good fight, I think the word fight should be capitalized, **FIGHT!** The physical, emotional and spiritual fight was immense. ***2 Tim 2:8-9 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 For which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.*** Paul is in a dungeon cell awaiting a Roman execution date that is unknown to him, added to this is the fact that he is lonely.

Remember that no one came forward at Paul's first hearing (2 Tim 4:16). Can you imagine the loneliness he must have experienced as the bailiff called for defense witnesses, and silence fell over the courtroom? But even in this severe time, Paul still said, *“May it not be counted against them”* (4:16). Come quickly Timothy!

According to John McRay in his book, “Paul His Life and Teaching,” and Robert T. Boyd’s book, “Paul the Apostle;” Paul was flogged (his clothes stripped) in agreement with Roman law before he was thrown into the Roman prison. The cells where the worst prisoners were chained were usually filthy, wet, and rodent-infested dungeons. Inside the prison, the bleeding wounds went untreated as the prisoners sat in leg and/or wrist chains, which inflicted additional pain. The mutilated clothing was not replaced, so prisoners were cold in winter. It was here that Paul asked Timothy to bring him his coat and books, which he had left at Troas (2 Tim 4:13). The pain and darkness sometimes led to suicide attempts by prisoners who were locked up over long periods of time. The guards were forbidden by threat of severe punishment to assist in suicides.

The Mamertine Prison (many historians say was the place of Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> incarceration-see below) was a place where the prisoner was lowered down through a hole (about 12 feet deep) by wrapping a rope under and around his arms. Some prisoners were forgotten and stayed so long that their chains rusted. Many died before their trial.



Remember what Christ told Ananias before Paul was baptized? *Acts 9:15-17* "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; 16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." Paul understood this (*2 Tim 2:8-10*). But he fought the good fight, he did not give up, he did not get himself entangled in everyday life and he did not love this present world (*James 4:4*) and its current pleasures over Christ and Him crucified with His promise of an eternal life. Plus he never deserted his fellow workers or his fellow soldiers! And yet as he is somehow able to write this letter, only Luke is there with him (*2 Tim 4:11*). But Paul knew that *"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."* (*2 Tim 4:18*). Come quickly Timothy!

As Paul wrote this letter to Timothy do you think he changed his feeling from his second letter to the church in Corinth (*2 Cor 11:23-29*)? There he lists all physical pains (which is hard for me to comprehend it all), but it is the fallen and weak soldier that pains him the most – *V:28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?* So by the time he writes this letter, he has been beaten more, been in prison more, been in danger more, more sleepless nights, more thirst and hunger, and even been shipwrecked more! But it is the fallen soldiers that he mentions that no doubt cause him so much pain as he is

dying in this dungeon, forsaken by Demas. Demas had been a "fellow worker" (*Philemon 24*), and close traveling companion of Paul (*Col 4:14*), but no longer. Demas has abandoned and deserted his fellow worker, his fellow soldier of Christ, his friend Paul, and most importantly he also let down the Lord Himself! He is a fallen soldier. How do you think Jesus feels about this after He rescued him from the domain of darkness? Jesus knows what it's like to be forsaken by a friend.

It is possible as Paul awaited his fate in that horrible cell, that he may have thought of how he traded a life of respect and honor (*Gal 1:13-14; Phil 3:4-8*) for one of total rejection and suffering? He is not there because he was a criminal who broke the law; he was there because he taught and lived Jesus Christ and Him crucified! If his childhood friends could have seen him in that horrendous dungeon, they might have concluded that he had traded everything for nothing.

**So, what do you have when it seems you have nothing left? You have what you know. With fallen soldiers fresh on his mind, Paul boldly proclaims, "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. 12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. 13 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim 1:8-13).**

He knew the One in whom he had believed. Paul had entrusted everything to Christ, the very One who rescued him. As the chains gripped his hands and feet and the smell of death was all around him, he put everything in his Savior, his Commander in Chief's hands. And he did all that he could to encourage Timothy to not become a fallen soldier and to encourage him to teach others. **Paul was called to FIGHT, so was Timothy, and so are we. So with death all around us, may we never give up! Let us FIGHT together.**

Bryan Bickford